Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-105
Friday
31 May 1991

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Arab Talks

LD3105093191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] On Palestinian affairs, the PLO Executive Committee expressed its satisfaction with the positive results of the recent talks between the Palestinian delegations and Egyptian, Syrian, and Jordanian officials.

The statement, which the committee issued after the end of its two-day meetings in Tunis under the chairmanship of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, mentioned that the agreement of the PLO and Egypt to continue coordination and consultation between them contributes to finding a common Arab stance toward the proposed peace conference and the necessity to have it on the resolutions of international legitimacy. The statement praised the Syrian stance toward the Palestinian cause and stressed the importance of continuing consultation, coordination, and development of relations between the PLO and the Syrian leadership.

The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation for the Jordanian stance of adhering to international legitimacy and to the convening of the peace conference under UN auspices and called for the continuation of coordination between the two sides in order to provide all the conditions which facilitate a just and durable solution in the region.

When reviewing the contacts with Lebanese officials, the PLO Executive Committee affirmed in its statement the eagerness to cooperate with the Lebanese Government to spread sovereignty to all Lebanese territory and end the Israeli occupation in the south.

Qaddumi: No Arms Handover While Israel in Lebanon

JN3005055191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] In an interview to be published by the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said: No Palestinian in Lebanon will hand over his weapons as long as Israel continues to occupy southern Lebanon. He said the Palestinian presence in Lebanon does not infringe on the sovereignty of that country, but the Israeli occupation does.

He concluded by saying: There will be no problem when Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon.

'Abd-Rabbuh Views PLO-Syrian Relations

LD2905191891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The head of the PLO Information Department, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, announced in Amman today that the PLO, Syria, and Jordan have identical views on the role of the peace conference on the Middle East. In a press statement, he said that the PLO and Syria agree with Jordan on the need to work for the convening of a peace conference on the basis of international legitimacy and they agree that it should have a continuous role.

In reply to a question on the PLO stance toward Baker's latest plan, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh found it sufficient to say that the Arab parties did not want to close the way to any serious opportunity for peace. But they adhere to international legitimacy. He pointed out that the sole obstacle to peace is not Syria, the PLO, or Jordan, but is the Israeli extremist policy, particularly the policy of settlement in the occupied territories.

With regard to the Palestinian delegations talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus yesterday, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that it was agreed to continue coordination and consultations between the two sides in the coming period, a thing which constitutes a new start in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

VOP Criticizes U.S., Kuwaiti Attitudes

Doubt About Bush Moves

LD0805204491 Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1703 GMT 30 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, in a speech at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado President George Bush called for a end to the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and called for freezing the production, possession, and testing of missiles which are capable of carrying chemical, biological, and nuclear warheads.

The U.S. President's initiative, in which he expressed his concept of the world order, raises dark shadows of doubts about the intentions of the U.S. Administration toward this issue, especially when the unjust terms imposed by the U.S. Administration on Iraq are still fresh in our minds.

Several resolutions were adopted, on the strength of these terms, by the UN Security Council, calling for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction of this Arab country [Iraq] without adopting similar measures applicable to Israel, which owns similar weapons and with which Israel has been threatening security and stability in the Middle East area by rejecting international peace calls.

It is not by chance that President Bush's declaration of his initiative coincided with the arrival of the U.S. secretary for defense in Israel. The visit carries significant indicators, particularly when the U.S. secretary for defense stressed more than once the need to maintain the strength of the Israeli military power because it is considered the paws of the American cat in the area.

While we look at the initiative of the U.S. President with more doubt and suspicion we cannot separate this initiative from the feverish U.S. media campaigns against

some states of the Arab east and Arab west alleging that they possess some of these weapons. The doubts about the Bush initiative are intensified when one considers a White House spokesman's statement yesterday that the present situation in the Middle East provides unique opportunities that must not be missed.

This means that the U.S. Administration will try to apply the same resolutions and the same harsh policies which it applied to Iraq and now wants to implement them against the Arab states while the same policies are not applicable to Israel, which will continue to remain free from any pressures to make it destroy the weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. Pressure Needed, Not Envoy

LD3005221291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: After four extensive tours of the area, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is contemplating—according to sources close to him—the dispatch of a special envoy to us to discuss the possibility of undertaking a fifth tour, and to see if the capitals concerned have become mature enough to entertain this new tour. Thus, we are going to be involved with a new shuttle series which is no less important than the original one.

How can all this happen when Mr. Baker, above anyone else, is aware of the meaning of "the maturity concerned here and there" for the peaceful political process, about which President Bush insists he is optimistic regardless of circumstances.

In any event, the area is not in need of this or that special envoy. What it needs most is clear and open pressure on Israel to enter the political process according to international legitimacy without delay, procrastination or foot-dragging on matters which in substance are rigid and crucial.

What has been happening is the complete opposite. As we said many times, Washington, for example, is keen on making repeated announcements through many of its officials that it will not pressure anyone, and that it basically will not impose peace on any side.

The direct translation of this declaration is that it will do nothing for the benefit of realizing international legitimacy in this area. It is astonishing however that, using the same yardstick, it did everything with lightning speed to impose this legitimacy on the Gulf area so very violently and relentlessly.

Naturally, we do not want a new war nor do we want new disasters and devastations. We only ask for some of that international effort which was made in the Gulf crisis so that it can been seen clearly in harmony with our issue and set on the road toward settling the Arab-Israel conflict.

U.S. talk about sending a special envoy from James Baker to the area who would then report to his boss is nothing but another attempt by Washington, even though this time the attempt is continuous and eager to please and preoccupy the Arab side which (?seeks) a U.S. presence—despite the fact that the United States is ever present with all its weight on the side of Israel whether in supplying it with the missiles or helping it in the case of the Falasha Jews.

Kuwaiti 'Campaign of Hatred' Seen

LD3005105591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 May 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We remained silent for too long about the practices carried out by Kuwait, the official state and the state of the militias, and about the fanatical reactions against the sons of our Palestinian people because we never wanted, despite the accuracy of the information and their concurrence, to pass a judgment on events with even one percent of error. Due to our desire to repair inter-Arab relations after the Gulf war—which will reveal, all around, that the Gulf states will be the first to suffer from it—we disregarded the massacre of our people and tried our best to contain the Kuwaiti tribal fanaticism with the hope that some will take heed and understand that the Palestinians did not occupy Kuwait. They were not allowed—even if they wanted to, but they did not—to participate in the acts of occupation. This is logical for the Iraqi Army—the Iraqi security and the Iraqi popular organizations did not need Palestinian civilians to obstruct their tasks, which they knew quite well. These regarded the Palestinians as an obstacle to the execution of their tasks. Therefore, the minutes of the official Palestinian-Iraqi sessions, during the Gulf crisis, included stern Palestinian protests on numerous occasions as a result of the ill-treatment by the Iraqi troops.

We are saying this to establish a few facts and secrets which it is not time yet to reveal. We are also saying this because we would like everyone to understand that there are those who are trying to blame the Palestinian (?community) for grave political errors and lapses which could have been avoided with wisdom and the abandonment of the impudence which led to the catastrophe. Thus, public opinion in Kuwait and the Gulf is being made to feel uneasy about the Palestinians. A campaign of hatred is being launched against the latter. They are being killed, they are being subjected to terror and injury, and they are brought to these trials which remind us of the Inquisition in the Middle Ages. The scandals surrounding these trials are becoming widely known, so much so that even the U.S. Administration, leader of the diabolical alliance, had no option—in front of the established and known facts—but to protest and express its concern over these unfair Kuwaiti trials. The U.S. Administration stressed the need to respect human rights, but the U.S. White House added that the judicial system in Kuwait is not the same as the U.S. system because Kuwait is not the 51st state of the United States.

Despite all this, there is a fact we must bring to the attention of every Palestinian and to the Palestinians of the intifadah, who live under the occupation, and to the Palestinians exiled in the Gulf and the various Arab states, and to all those throughout the world, and that is that the Palestinians in Kuwait are being proscribed and that their proscription falls within the framework of an organized and studied plan and that despite the weak protest of the U.S. Administration, which justifies the events taking place in Kuwait with the excuse that the latter is not its 51st state, this plan is being carried out with the incitement and encouragement from this administration, which overlooks the atrocious crimes and does not forgive the minor mistakes.

Furthermore, Europe is also responsible for the blood of our people. It is responsible for the organized terror against the Palestinians in Kuwait, and it is responsible for the inquisition trials. The matter does not (?shame) the Kuwaiti Government alone, but it also shames the new order founded on human rights, the rights of everyone except the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the Gulf.

VOP: Normality Returning to PLO-Syrian Ties

LD2905223691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the positive and fruitful results which were brought about by the Palestinian-Syrian talks, which were concluded yesterday in Damascus, vis-a-vis that which concerns the means of a comprehensive and lasting solution in the Middle East region and the Palestine issue in particular, and regarding the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon and forging strong relations between the Lebanese authority and the PLO on the basis of mutual respect and concern for the sovereignty of Lebanon, territory and people. [sentence as heard] We are saying that these results open wider horizons in the brotherly relations between the Syrian and Palestinian sides and lays down strong bases for the rebuilding of the edifice of Arab solidarity, which was subjected to blows during the Gulf crisis, with a view to crystallizing an effective Arab performance that would throw its weight in the international arena and prevent Israeli domination in the arena.

Perhaps the atmosphere of concord and agreement which prevailed at the Damascus talks between the Palestinian and Syrian sides constitutes an example to be followed by Arab capitals which are still experiencing the pains of the rift brought about by the Gulf war. These pains must not under any circumstances remain in the Arab body while Israel continues to turn its back on all the resolutions of international legitimacy, in whose name the United States with 30 countries, some of which were Arab, launched a war against Iraq.

The return of Palestinian-Syrian relations to normal constitutes a realistic reply to all the challenges faced by the Arab nation, which could, if allowed to become prevalent among all the brothers, crystalize the means of getting out of the status quo. consequently, it would constitute a high ground for the Arab stance.

While we [word indistinct] the positive results of the Damascus talks between the PLO and Syria, we hope that all Arabs realize the importance of [word indistinct] Arab solidarity to safeguard the nation's present and future. [Words indistinct] to unite ranks and unify the nation's capabilities to build a (?firm) Arab nation capable of gaining international respect for legitimate Arab and Palestinian rights.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Officials Cited on Need for Iraqi Oil

JN2805203591 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Oil ministers and OPEC officials have said that Iraqi oil is needed to maintain moderate oil prices when demand for oil goes up during winter. They said that oil demand will rise during the last quarter of this year, and is expected to reach 24 million barrels daily, about 5,000 barrels more than the OPEC output. [Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 0300 GMT on 29 May in a rebroadcast of this report gives the preceding figure as 500,000.]

This cannot be overcome without Iraq's oil, they said. It should be noted that OPEC is currently organizing a conference on oil industry in the Iranian city of Esfahan.

Algeria

Reportage Continues on Progress of General Strike

Parties Reject Strike Call

LD2505035991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Another party has expressed its position on the strike call. This time the language is different. In a statement yesterday, the Socialist Vanguard Party, which announced its boycott of the legislative elections, condemned the Islamic Salvation Front call and considers its strike call incitement for destabilization, confrontation, and a threat to national independence.

The Algerian Renewal Party refuses to participate in the strike. The leader of the party, Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, stated the following:

[Begin Boukrouh recording] The Algerian Renewal Party believes that the current circumstances should be characterized by stability, calmness, and public harmony, so that we will be able to overcome all problems in the way of the first free legislative elections in the history of Algeria since independence. It is better if all the political powers understand this point and participate positively in achieving it, rather than casting doubts and trying to defeat the will of the people. We are facing elections; we are facing a test. It is a test for everyone, even for the current regime.

God willing, we will be able, through democratic and peaceful means, to improve the political situation in the country without resorting to an indefinite strike or any other action. [end recording]

Parties React to Strike Call

LD2505201591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GTM 25 May 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The reaction of the political parties to the call for a general strike was swift. Despite the differences in their opinions their reaction was either neutral or against. Most political parties consider the strike to be unjustified and likely to jeopardize democracy. The following are some of their reaction. We begin with the FLN [National Liberation Front] stand, expressed by FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri:

[Begin Mehri recording] The FLN position toward any call for political strikes was drawn up by the FLN Political Bureau in its statement of 10 April 1991 when the first ever call for such a strike was made. The Political Bureau pointed out that such actions will not contribute to responsible dialogue between the political parties nor will they provide the political and social atmosphere which might allow citizens to freely exercise their right to vote. That is why we think that such a strike will not be in the interest of the democratic process or the national interest. We urged from the beginning, that is, more than a month ago, party workers and citizens to do everything to thwart the call for the strike and to prevent it from achieving its aim of disrupting the democratic process.

Therefore, the FLN position is based on the fact that such calls for political strikes will not be in the interest of the democratic process or the interest of the people, nor will it give an honorable image of the Algerian experience which has gained the whole world's admiration and pride. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] We continue with the reaction of more parties. Rabah Bencherif, leader of the National Party for Solidarity and Development [PNSD], talks now about his party's reaction:

[Begin Bencherif recording] The PNSD has a clear and firm stand. We had talks with a number of officials, foremost of whom was His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, whom we asked not to dissolve parliament before its term. Regrettably he decided to dissolve the parliament and bring about general elections.

As far as early presidential elections are concerned we are against them. Our party is committed to the constitution whose articles say that any elected body should fulfill its term. Therefore, the president of the republic was elected for five years and should see them through. [end recording]

[Announcer] This morning the radio contacted Kasdi Merbah, former prime minister and leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, in order to learn his stand on the strike. He said the following:

[Begin Merbah recording] The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] has the right to call for a strike. Some people say this is a political strike. However, any citizen has the right to strike in order to bring pressure to bear and to make his opinion heard. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we think the FIS has the right to organize a strike; the mistake was made by the regime which did not consult with the parties. Did not talk to them, and did not hold meetings to discuss the new administrative divisions which were custom-made to suit it. [passage omitted]

And finally, we say our movement is not with the strike and is not against it. We are neutral. [end recording]

[Announcer] Next is Mrs. Louisa Hanoun, leader of the Workers Party, who expressed her opinion on the strikes.

[Begin Hanun recording] The Workers Party Central Committee, having been informed of the FIS call for an unlimited general strike for abrogation of the election bill and the holding of an early presidential elections, would like to remind that it made a public statement last November in which the Workers Party asserted the need for a general strike by the whole Algerian people in order to remove the government of President Chadli and Prime Minister Hamrouche and their policies. [passage omitted]

We stress that the FIS, like any other party or organization, has the right to express its position through democratic means. The Workers Party, which has been condemning all pressures from any side, denounces the circumstances in which the elections are being prepared, in view of the fact that the Army is today encircling all towns. We consider such action to be a provocation, a violation of individual freedoms, and a pressure on the consciences. The Workers Party and its leadership are, however, convinced that the Algerian people will confront such a situation and will defend its rights. [end recording]

Parties Calls for 'Vigilance'

LD2605044191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] We have the very latest reaction of a political party to the unlimited strike launched by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] expresses the view that the FIS has just revealed its intention of preventing democracy from being achieved and plunging the country into civil war. Furthermore, the RCD calls for citizens to maintain great vigilance, hoping that on 27 June the people will express their rejection of the choice between bad and worse.

Situation 'Normal' on Second Day

LD2605151191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 91

[Excerpt] The strike call by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is into its second day today. Most press reports agree that the second day of the strike looks very similar to the first. Life is almost entirely normal in the regions. On the second day of the strike, the followers of Abassi Madani's party have once again organized marches and rallies. Despite that, it was noted today that there were garbage cans outside the buildings, which was expected because garbage collectors, as employees of the FIS-controlled municipalities, were obliged to strike. The FIS has not yet answered the open letter which the National Liberation Front Political Bureau sent the FIS Consultative Council yesterday, calling on it to abstain from strikes and extremism and work to instill tranquillity in the minds of Algerians. [passage omitted]

Details of Day There

[Anne Doueze report from Algiers]

LD2605085291 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] The situation is changing every day in Algiers. Yesterday the size of the demonstration provoked a real unease in the city. The narrowly avoided confrontations with the police might have had very serious consequences. Nobody here forgets that the Army is ready to leave the barracks located on the outskirts of the city. But today the atmosphere is different. At the business level, garbage collectors are on strike and this is noticeable on this first hot day. Nurseries have not opened their doors and there are few buses in the city center. The municipalities—the FIS-led ones of course—refuse to take any administrative measures and that might hamper the electoral process. Every day brings something new. The religious party even manages to show imagination in finding different ways to demonstrate. Today, it is in cars, in trucks, in vans, in anything that can be driven and that has a horn, with a guaranteed cacophony. As early as mid-afternoon the unrest starts to sweep the streets. It is possible this evening's demonstration might be as important if not more than yesterday's. Attacks against the press become more and more vicious every day. Moreover, the FIS decided to report about the strike by issuing numbered communiques like those during a war.

Report on Strike Situation

LD3005091791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] What are the latest developments of the political strike staged by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]? The latest reports suggest that there is a trend toward dialogue after the wave of impetuosity which characterized the progress of the strike. This was apparent through the series of rallies and marches staged in the past four days.

During a rally staged at the Martyrs' Square yesterday, 'Ali Belhadi, second-in-command of the FIS, announced—as reported by AL WATAN today—the FIS readiness to negotiate with the regime provided the negotiations cover the main demands which prompted the FIS to launch its indefinite strike. The FIS leadership fears that some of its activists might commit excesses. This is why it is now leaning toward a dialogue. Still, according to AL-WATAN, Shaykh Abassi Madani [FIS leader] is also ready to negotiate. He is reported to have expressed this desire during this meeting with Slimane Amirat, leader of the Democratic Movement for Renewal. The two men have met once and are said to have agreed to meet again.

Now over to dispatches from our correspondents throughout the country. We will start with Faysi Ghamis from Setif:

[Ghamis] On the fifth day, the impact of the strike in Setif is more serious and greater than it was in the past four days. Thus, the vast majority of shopkeepers in the town responded to the FIS call and closed their shops today. According to a communique on the walls of public squares, the shopkeepers' response comes as a result of the meeting held yesterday evening by the representatives of the Municipal Union of Shopkeepers with officials of the provincial office of the FIS. At the end of that meeting, it was decided to call on the shopkeepers to close their shops. This follows a communique issued by the municipal union calling on the town's shopkeepers to boycott the FIS strike.

An official from the provincial office of the Union of Shopkeepers and Traders in Setif told the national radio

this morning that those who met yesterday with FIS officials represented only themselves. He also indicated that their actions had led to a division in the unity of the Municipal Union of Shopkeepers. According to the same source, the provincial office of the Union of Shopkeepers will take measures to enable it to put a halt to the shopkeepers' strike. The University of Setif was also affected by the strike call. Responsible sources have indicated that elements which do not belong to the university community burst into the university grounds to force the students to go on strike.

This morning, a large crowd of FIS activitists and striking workers took part in a march through the main streets. During this march, the Islamic Trade Union of Labor announced through loudspeakers that a rally will be staged outside the education directorate this afternoon in protest against, the call said, the pressures and threats against the striking workers in the education sector. Apart from municipal buildings and shops, public institutions worked normally today.

[Announcer] Now with a dispatch from Constantine by Rabi Daas:

[Daas] Things in Constantine are normal. Traffic, which was disrupted in the past four days due to the marches and rallies which marked this strike, is also back to normal much to the relief of the citizens who went to work this morning without encountering any problems. Life is going on normally and no disruption has been reported in the various sectors. Even the pupils, who missed their classes in the past few days, returned this morning to their schools. However, the municipalities continue to provide a minimum service to the public. The refuse which we mentioned yesterday is now gradually disappearing from the streets of Constantine. If matters in Constantine and in the other eastern towns and cities are normal, the FIS strike's continuing in total peace and is marked by marches and rallies.

[Announcer] Ahmed Khettaoui went to Medea today where it was reported that a large number of shopkeepers were still on strike.

[Khettaoui] The strike called by the FIS and which is entering its fifth day is taking a different shape in Medea. It is now affecting the local population. Foodstuffs and vegetables are becoming scarce as a result of the response of the majority of shopkeepers to the strike. This has led some inhabitants to go to Blida to buy vegetables and even milk for children. An elderly woman was seen in Blida asking passers-by for directions to any shop selling milk for children. This woman had hired a taxi from Medea to Blida and it is worth recalling that there are 33 kms between the two towns. It is also worth mentioning that the strike in this town has affected over 90 percent of the private sector, including even the shops which are closely linked to the people, such as bakeries, food shops, and vegetables and fruits markets. Bus traffic is also paralyzed and this gave some taxi driver the opportunity to exploit people's distress and increase their fares.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the reports on the clouds which formed God's name in the sky have begun taking hold of the minds of the people in this town. People in Medea, including university lecturers and engineers, have been reporting that the name of God, Allah, was seen in the sky of Medea last Sunday when Abassi Madani was getting ready to address the masses. It is probably premature to be absolutely certain of such a vision occurring.

[Announcer] Now from Oran with Wahiba Ghanim:

[Ghanim] The FIS activists are still staging rallies in various places in Oran. This morning, the Provincial Executive Office of the Islamic Trade Union of Labor staged a mass rally in 1 November square. Striking workers from various enterprises in Oran, some retired people, and a small number of women attended this rally. It is worth mentioning that today's rally differed greatly from yesterday's rally held at the Palace of Exhibitions. The difference lies in the language used for today's rally which was characterized by political speeches through which the speakers wanted to highlight the role of the Islamic Trade Union of Labor.

Some political formations are still reacting to the political strike called for by the FIS. Now we will listen to some of these positions from the Federation of the Socialist Vanguard Party [PAGS] and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA]:

[Unidentified PAGS official] Our position is clear and can be summed up in one word: today we denounce the developments which characterize the behavior of the activists and members of the FIS because after four days of this strike, which is indefinite as you know, some excesses were committed today. These excesses affect the liberties and the daily life of the individual.

[Unidentified MDA official] We disagree with the method used by the FIS, namely that it has begun working on its own without consulting the rest of the political opposition. I do not know whether these rallies are legal or not but I do not think that they will really express all the demands of the Algerian people because these rallies are staged by one party and the demands are made by many parties and by a large section of the people.

Hamas Leader Comments Strike

LD3005113191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of Hamas [Islamic Society Movement], gave the national radio his position on the strike staged by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Mohsin Slimani asked him a number of questions during the program Issues and Dialogue transmitted live today from the 5 July Sports Complex where Hamas is holding its constituent congress.

[Begin Recording] [Nahnah] The important thing is that the strike must primarily serve the interests of the citizens and Algeria's present and future interests. If this

is the case, so much the better, but if it is not the case, we must then review the position. We have noticed that there are elements, even within the FIS, which totally reject this strike. On the other hand, we have also noticed the stubbornness and (?indifference) of the regime. We said that a dialogue must be open. The Algerian Government [should] open dialogue with any side. Dialogue is the way to prosperity and without it there will only be destruction.

[Slimani] Did the Hamas movement and you do anything to bring about such a climate of dialogue or to end this strike or to urge either side to enter a dialogue?

[Nahnah] Yes, we have approached several sides in both camps and told them that the door of dialogue must be open to ensure that the citizens feel reassured about their livelihood and their daily life, because it is wrong to provoke the citizens. One is free to go on strike, but forcing people to go on strike and threatening them in their homes, shops, universities, or schools is not an Islamic action whatsoever, nor is it a political action. The political action must be open: an appeal is made and it is up to the people whether or not to respond. This is our point of view on the matter.

We have found elements in the government who want a dialogue and we have also found elements even within the FIS who want a dialogue as well. Dialogues took place 48 hours ago and we found some understanding. Through the radio, we would like to thank them [those taking part in the dialogue] for their perspicacity and vigilance out of fear for Algeria and out of loyalty to the blood of our heroic martyrs.

[Slimani] So there are fears....

[Nahnah, interrupting] Some people came to my house and threatened by children.

[Slimani] Where?

[Nahnah] Where I live.

[Slimani] These past days?

[Nahnah] Yesterday and the day before yesterday. One of my brothers was also threatened. In spite of this, we urged our brethren to show self-restraint in accordance with God's verse: Those who restrain anger and pardon all men; for God loves those who do good. This is our religion.

FIS Leader Reacts to Council Statement

LD3005154191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 May 91

[Interview with Islamic Salvation Front Leader Abassi Madani by unidentified correspondent; place not given—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] In reaction to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Consultative Council statement, Abassi Madani speaks to us now:

[Madani] I say that the strike continues.

[Correspondent] Continues?

[Madani] Yes.

[Correspondent] It continues. The statement which was received by the radio this evening ....

[Madani, interrupting] There is no truth to it.

[Correspondent continues] ... calls on the Islamic Salvation Front's strugglers to end the strike.

[Madani] Not at all. The only people who could declare the end of the strike are two men alone: Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, and his deputy Ali Belhadj. No one other than us has been authorized by the Consultative Council or the Executive Bureau to declare the end of the strike.

[Correspondent] ECH-CHAAB today asked what was meant by the statement of the supporters of the Islamic solution released by the FIS—by the Consultative Council to be specific. ECH-CHAAB asked what was meant by individualistic behavior. According to ECH-CHAAB, it was likely that one of two people was referred to; either Abassi Madani or Ali Belhadj.

FIS Consultative Council Remarks

LD3005192791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 May 91

[Excerpt] The strike of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is today in its sixth day. What was noticeable in the capital was the recurrence of gatherings of the front's supporters but not as much as was seen during the days prior to the strike, according to our colleagues who have roamed the streets of the capital.

We mention that FIS leader Mr. Abassi Madani today announced the continuation of the strike after the front's Consultative Council yesterday issued a statement calling for an end to the strike. As a reminder, we would point out that the Consultative Council issued weeks ago a statement in which it abrogated the post of FIS official spokesman, pointing out that the Consultative Council was the only official body empowered to adopt stances through statements it issues concerning the most important national issues. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Minister Holds News Conference 29 May

NC2905155591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that Egyptian diplomacy is proceeding with well-planned steps to emphasize and achieve joint Arab action based on mutual respect and on the Arab League and UN Charters. In his first news conference at

the Foreign Ministry today, he said that this course follows the thinking of President Mubarak. He said that Egyptian diplomacy does not take slogans into account. He said that the time is now to bring the Arabs together on the basis of Arab and international legitimacy and to place Arab relations on sound footing.

Musa said that the Palestinian issue is currently passing through an important stage in preparation for the peace process. This process entails placing the Palestinian issue with all its aspects—the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and other legitimate rights, all provisions of Security Council Resolution 242, and the reciprocal and even-handed rights—on the basis of which the negotiations must proceed. He emphasized that the current stage is extremely delicate because it entails efforts to promote the peace process to work out a peaceful, just, and permanent settlement.

Musa pointed out that the interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 exists and is valid within the framework of the United Nations, the five permanent Security Council members, and all other countries. Any other interpretation is personal and not binding to any party. He noted that the resolution's provisions deal with the military actions that took place in 1967 and address the results of these actions which involved the Egyptian, Syrian, and Jordanian fronts. The resolution, therefore, demands a withdrawal in accordance with the principle of inadmissibility of occupation of land by war. It says that Israel should withdrawal from all the currently occupied territories of the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza strip, and East Jerusalem.

Regarding Egypt's efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue, Musa said that he telephoned U.S. Secretary of State James Baker two days ago. He also said he sent two messages to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Soviet foreign minister outlining Egypt's views on the peace process before their meeting in Lisbon tomorrow, Thursday. In those correspondence, Musa emphasized the importance of speeding up efforts to reach a formula to the peace process. He said that there are divergent positions and that the Israeli stand is intransigent. However, international contacts and attempts are continuing to overcome the existing difficulties. He reasserted Egypt's stand that the building of settlements casts a black cloud over the general atmosphere of the peace process. He said that stopping the settlements will facilitate this process because it provides a starting point to begin the negotiations. He also stressed the importance of a Palestinian presence in these negotiations that must proceed on the bases of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Musa added that Egypt is currently trying to activate the peace process toward negotiations based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principles of the UN Charter and international law. All these resolutions and principles stress the right of all countries, including Israel, to live within secure borders, the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and security for all parties, including the Palestinians. He pointed out that the solution must be reciprocal and based on a comprehensive settlement that takes into account the rights of the Palestinian people and Israel. It must also consider the obligations of Israel and the Palestinians on the bases of the principle of inadmissibility of seizure of land by force. He said that Egypt's foreign policy under the leadership of President Mubarak is firm and is based on national and pan-Arab regional and international premises.

The foreign minister said that consultations between Egypt and the Arab states, including Kuwait, are continuing and include security and the future of intra-Arab relations.

He indicated that despite debates and discussions, no concrete results have been achieved. He said that the subject of Gulf security is still being discussed, the Damascus declaration exists and consultations are continuing among the Arab states.

He emphasized that contacts will continue among the parties because the coming phase is important and constant consultations are needed.

Musa affirmed that the Egyptian forces in the Gulf returned after performing their task, as President Hosni Mubarak announced. He said that consultations on regional security are still continuing.

The foreign minister emphasized that Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations are sound and constructive. He said that Egypt did not send its forces to the Gulf in return for material gain, but on the bases of pan-Arab strategic commitment.

He said that Egyptian-Arab economic cooperation should based on sound foundations.

Musa asserted that the Falasha Jews from Ethiopia have the right to immigrate to Israel. What we are concerned about is that settlers not be settled, settlements not be built, and Palestinian rights not be violated in the occupied Palestinian territories—namely, Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The foreign minister said that it is inadmissible to build settlements or to settle immigrants from the Soviet Union or Ethiopia in these occupied territories. He emphasized that Egypt is opposed to any operation to settle immigrants on these occupied Arab territories at the expense of the Palestinian people.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt has a fundamental principled stand on the idea of dividing Ethiopian territory. The integrity of all African territories must be safeguarded and the peoples legitimate rights must not be violated. Safeguarding Ethiopia's territorial integrity is a basic issue. This also applies to Somalia. Egypt supports the territorial integrity of both Somalia and Ethiopia. This is a firm principle that is recognized in the OAU Charter.

Musa characterized the current situation in Iraq as a tragedy. He said that Egypt regards Iraq as part of the

Arab nation and that the Iraqi people have contributed to the advancement of the Arab nation. However, he said, there is no confidence in the Iraqi leadership following the invasion of Kuwait. Musa asserted that Egyptian diplomacy foresaw the changes in the international arena from the beginning and dealt with them practically and objectively, without slogans and on the basis of new relations.

He said that Egypt acted on this basis in the Middle East and Gulf crises. He said that Egypt calls for dialogue, understanding, and negotiations on the basis of the UN resolutions in the Middle East crisis. He concluded that Egypt sided with international legitimacy and opposed the principle of invasion and seizure of the territories of others by force during the Gulf crisis..

'Amr Musa Says UN To Have 'Presence' in Talks

NC3105115891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0934 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 May (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the United Nations will not be excluded from the UN peace conference on the Middle East. He added that the basis of the negotiations will be UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Musa said that no political effort should take place outside the framework of the UN Charter and principles. He added that no negotiating should take place outside the framework of the existing and reciprocal rights of the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

In an interview with today's issue of the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD, which was cited by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY [WAM], Musa said that the United Nations will have a presence in the conference, whether Israel likes it or not, particularly with regard to the principles defined and established by the United Nations.

The foreign minister said that the peace conference issue is still under discussion and that exchanges about it are taking place. He added that we should await the result of the upcoming talks between the United States and the Soviet Union as well as U.S. exchanges with Middle East countries, including Israel.

Musa referred to the U.S. Administration's positive stand on Israel's building of settlements in the occupied territories. He said that the occupied West Bank and Gaza should be kept outside the realm of Israeli settlement activities. He said that any settlements in the occupied Arab territories are illegitimate and unacceptable.

'Amr Musa, Jordanian Envoy Discuss Peace Process

NC3005143591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nabih al-Nimr at noon today.

After the meeting, the Jordanian ambassador said that the two discussed Arab developments, the peace process, and the American role in this process. The discussions also dealt with the current attempts to close the Arab ranks.

The ambassador emphasized that Egyptian-Jordanian relations have transcended the Gulf crisis and that the countries are seeking to achieve Arab solidarity, especially in the wake of the telephone conversations between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan.

Japanese Foreign Minister Holds Meetings in Cairo

Discusses Israel With Mubarak

OW3005044691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0313 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Cairo, May 30 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Wednesday pledged to urge Israel to adopt a "realistic and flexible stand" for Middle East peace efforts during his coming visit to Israel, Japanese officials said.

Nakayama made the statement during his 40-minute talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The foreign minister arrived in Cairo on Wednesday evening and will leave for Israel on Thursday.

During the talks, Mubarak condemned Israel for settling Jews on occupied Arab lands at the very moment when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was touring Israel and Arab countries in an effort to resolve disagreements hindering the Middle East peace process and the proposed convening of a Middle East peace conference, the officials said. Mubarak also criticized Israel for airlifting to Israel some 15,000 Ethiopian Jews in exchange for supplying weapons to Ethiopian rebel forces. The evacuation would not push forward the much-needed peace process in the Middle East, the officials quoted Mubarak as telling Nakayama.

Mubarak also said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is showing flexibility on the proposed Middle East peace conference.

The Egyptian president expressed gratitude to Japan for signing the agreement of the Paris Club that called for the member nations to write off 50 percent of Egypt's external debts. Nakayama told Mubarak that Japan intends to reach an agreement with Egypt on 200 billion yen worth of outstanding loans to Egypt, extended through such official channels as the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).

Nakayama extended an invitation to visit Japan to Mubarak. The foreign minister also gave Mubarak a letter from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu concerning Japan's efforts to contribute to the Middle East peace process, the officials said.

Meets 'Amr Musa, Others

OW3005144391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Cairo, May 30 KYODO—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Thursday asked Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama for Japan's cooperation in a 400 million dollar scheme to boost employment and improve housing in Egypt. Musa asked Japan to boost its investment in Egypt from the present less-than-66 million dollars and to aid in the expansion of the Suez Canal and restoration of an undersea tunnel.

Nakayama, who is on a visit to the Middle East, replied that he would have the matter studied at an official level.

Musa told Nakayama that his country has proposed to the United States and the Soviet Union that Israel freeze its movement of Jewish settlers into the occupied territories. Musa asked Nakayama, who is due to visit Israel from Thursday, to convey to the Israelis his opinion that a freeze in the implementation of their policy of populating the occupied territories would benefit plans for peace. Nakayama indicated he would press the Israelis to show a more realistic and flexible policy.

Musa also endorsed Japanese efforts to eliminate clauses in the U.N. Charter which refer to World War II axis nations as former enemy states. Nakayama told Musa that the clauses, which include Japan within that definition, no longer have any meaning in the current world situation.

Musa said Egypt would also support a move at the U.N. General Assembly in New York this fall for Japan to take a seat as a nonpermanent member of the Security Council.

Nakayama also met the Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Mijid at the league's Cairo headquarters Thursday morning. Al-Majid, who served as foreign minister until mid-May, told Nakayama his main priority is a reconciliation among the countries of the Arab world following the divisions created by the Gulf war.

Nakayama is scheduled to meet Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi before flying to Israel the same day.

Nakayama's six-day Middle East visit began in Iran on Monday. He will leave Israel for Paris on Saturday.

Says Japan Seeks Mideast Role

NC3005121791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—A senior member of the delegation accompanying the Japanese foreign minister on his visit to Cairo has asserted that Egypt is an important player in the Middle East, particularly regarding regional peace and stability and the current peace efforts.

In a statement to the press, the official said that Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's visit reflects the importance attached to Egypt. He asserted that, in addition to its economic role, Japan wants to play a constructive political role in the region. He said it plans to do this by effectively participating in UN efforts, noting that this kind of participation was apparent both during and after the Gulf war.

The Japanese official emphasized that his country supported Egypt during the Paris Club negotiations and agreed to cancel 50 percent of its debts, in accordance with the timetable established there. He said his country welcomes the agreement between Egypt and the IMF as well as the agreement Egypt reached with its creditor countries at the Paris meetings.

The Japanese official said that his country supports the Mideast peace process and calls on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. He said Japan recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the right to a state of their own. He noted that Japan also recognizes Israel's right to live in peace within secure and recognized borders.

He added that the Japanese foreign minister will continue the dialogue with Israeli officials during his visit there to urge them to begin the peace process.

The official also asserted that Japan supports the PLO, believes it must participate in the Middle East peace process, and considers it to be the representative of the Palestinian people.

He said that, during his visit to Tehran, Foreign Minister Nakayama discussed resuming the economic aid suspended since the Iranian revolution.

The official noted that Japan contributed $11 billion to the multinational force during the Gulf war and also contributed $2 billion to Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan—countries that suffered heavy losses during the war. He said that Japan is currently participating in UN humanitarian efforts on refugees, mine-clearing, and construction operations in the Gulf.

He asserted that his country supports international efforts seeking to control arms sales to the Middle East and to ensure disarmament and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Iraqi Arrives for Culture Ministers' Meeting

NC3005193491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Naji Sabri al-Hadithi, first under secretary at the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, arrived in Cairo this afternoon to participate in the eighth conference of the Arab ministers of culture. The conference opens here on Saturday, 1 June.

The Iraqi official was received by Muhammad Ghunaym, first under secretary at the Ministry of Culture.

Jihad Leader Admits Part in Speaker's Death

NC2505105591 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 May 91 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] 'Ali al-Buhayri, leader of the extremist al-Jihad organization in Alexandria, has admitted participating in facilitating and assisting the organization members accused of assassinating former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and attempting to assassinate Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. [passage omitted]

In his confession, the defendant said that he rented furnished apartments for the members of the organization—Hamid 'Abd-al-'Al, Ahmad Nuwwarah, and 'Isam al-Sayyid. He also prepared forged identity cards for them and purchased the necessary clothes to facilitate their movements in the city. [passage omitted]

'Ali al-Buhayri confessed to the following charges leveled against him: securing and possessing arms, ammunition, and explosives; and forging personal and family identity cards.

He also confessed to setting fire to five shops and attempting to blow up St. George Church in al-Ibrahimiyah to cause confusion and alarm. He participated in instigating the murder of secret policeman Misbah Idris with the same three defendants because the Jihad organization ordered his liquidation. The three defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment for that murder.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Iraqi 'Crimes'

NC2405201491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1920 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] In support of our people in Iraq and in assertion of Islamic unity, the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo has issued a statement denouncing the Saddam regime's crimes against the persecuted people and condemning the U.S. policy of hegemony.

The statement said: We strongly condemn the brutal and inhuman methods used by the Ba'thist ruler of Iraq and the gang that acts under his orders and supports his tyranny.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Egyptian Delegation

LD2705221991 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Maa [May] 27, ARAB MAGHREB UNION POOL—The leader of the revolution received the chairman of the National Council in Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr Ahmed Fathi Saror and members of the Nation Council delegation who are participating in the meetings of the 21st session of Arab Parliaments Union, held presently in Great Jamahiriyah land.

The leader addressed, through the reception, a special tribute to the Egyptian Nation Council, which had passed some unionist resolutions and unanimously gratified, in a unique and spectacular unionist initiative on the scale of Arab parliaments, the ten agreements between Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt, that allowed the people of the one Arab nation, in the two countries, the right of movement, stay, possess [as received] within their two countries.

Al-Bishari Interviewed on Ties With Egypt

NC2805170591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, has lauded Egyptian-Libyan relations and described them as "more than good." He said: There are many agreements for unity between the two countries. There is also a fruitful coordination to encourage and promote Libyan investment in Egypt and to set up a number of joint ventures for oil exploration and production. He added that the two countries have drawn up plans for trade and financial exchange.

In an interview with Cairo's AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, al-Bishari said the dimensions of the agreements are strategic and will produce mutual interests for Egypt and Libya in the long run. He said that Libya's pan-Arab objective is to establish an Egyptian-Libyan unity. He added that the borders between the two countries are fictitious, because the land and people are one, with common interests.

The Libyan secretary emphasized that preparations are in full swing in Libya to set up urban and agricultural compounds in al-Wigh and al-Sarah to settle one million Egyptians, noting that this would strengthen the ties of brotherhood and cooperation between the two countries.

Asked about Libya's concept of security arrangements in the Gulf, Ibrahim al-Bishari stressed that the Arabs must take responsibility for pan-Arab security. He said that an Arab state can ask for the help of another Arab state's forces because this is legitimate and permissible and is part of the security arrangements between the Arabs.

The Libyan secretary for external liaison cautions against the danger inherent in involving foreign countries in pan-Arab security. He said: We do not interfere in the affairs of fraternal countries, but we believe that there is no need for foreign troops in the Gulf after the liberation of Kuwait.

Ibrahim al-Bishari stressed the need to distinguish between pre-Kuwait liberation and post-Kuwait liberation stages, noting that the foreign troops in the Gulf are there at the request of independent and sovereign states. He said it is the right of countries to ask anyone to help them defend themselves whenever threatened. He added that the foreign troops have come to the region in accordance with the UN resolutions to implement the principle of international legitimacy. However, he affirmed that these troops do not need to remain now that Kuwait has been liberated.

Alluding to the ongoing efforts to mend the Arab rift after the Gulf crisis, the Libyan secretary said that brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, is currently trying to patch up inter-Arab differences in hope of unifying Arab ranks and restoring Arab relations to their status prior to 2 August 1990.

As for peace efforts in the Middle East, the Libyan secretary for external liaison expressed the conviction that Israel does not want peace because war and aggression are part of its nature.

Ibrahim al-Bishari reiterated Libya's support for the Palestinian issue because it is the Arabs' principal cause. He added: We support the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle to determine their future and set up their state, maintaining that these rights are stipulated in UN and Security Council resolutions and are recognized in principles of international legitimacy. Al-Bishari, however, asserted that his country believes that the Palestinian people's struggle should be confined to, and not taken outside of, the occupied territories. He said that Libya does not approve of, and even denounces, any actions the Palestinians take outside the occupied territories, because this harms their cause.

In the interview, Ibrahim al-Bishari reiterated that Libya refuses to support or encourage terrorism, pointing out that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has never supported terrorism. He said his country is attempting to establish good relations with all other countries based on legitimacy, mutual respect, and common interests.

The Libyan secretary said that Libya supports international legitimacy and the UN and Security Council resolutions. Libya also supports the people's rights to self-determination and non-intervention in others' affairs, he added. Al-Bishari said past events were a sort of misunderstanding of Libyan foreign policy.

As for the issue of Chad, al-Bisahri said what happened in Chad is an internal problem that concerns the Chadian people only, and Libya was not involved in it.

Kuwait

'Kuwait Message' Ends; Internal TV To Resume

LD3005215391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2056 GMT 30 May 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] Dear viewers in the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states, before we leave you in God's care, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the last program of the Kuwait television message, which is broadcast from the television of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the remaining GCC states, will be tomorrow, 31 May. The "Kuwait Message" will cease to continue, God willing, as of Saturday 1 June. Huzayran, and broadcasting will, God willing, be from inside Kuwait, from Kuwait's television. We will, God willing, meet you in tomorrow's message, the last program.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Supports Bush Mideast Arms Control Moves

LD3005172991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1627 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, 30 May (SPA)—A responsible source made the following statement to SPA today:

Officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have followed the international efforts aimed at bringing about permanent peace and comprehensive stability in the Arab region. In this respect, they read the text of the initiative announced by U.S. President George Bush on Wednesday in which he called for a freeze on the production and stocking of mass destruction weapons and a ban on the production of materials for nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

The source added: Out of its total conviction and its policy known for its support of everything that could achieve security and stability for the states of the Middle East and enable them to continue the march toward growth, prosperity, and development for their peoples, Saudi Arabia would like to express its support for the initiative put forward by President Bush in the speech he delivered yesterday, Wednesday, during a graduation ceremony in the State of Colorado, and the purpose of which is to make the Middle East a region free of weapons of destruction. This is particularly as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia promptly signed the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons within the UN framework and contributed with intensive efforts in international forums to achieve this humanitarian goal which all of mankind aspires to for the sake of the desired peace.

Defense Minister Discusses Forces, Security

LD3005110891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 May 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 30 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness [HRH] Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, indicated that there are clear and defined instructions from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to support the Saudi Armed Forces.

During a news conference following his patronage of the graduation of the fourth group of students of the industrial institute and various other groups from industrial training centers in al-Kharj, he said: We would like to reassure our distinguised public that the Saudi leadership, under directives and guidance from the custodian of the two holy mosques and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has definite and clear instructions to support the Saudi Armed Forces and improve their standard and efficiency." [passage omitted]

HRH said: "We will continue military recruitment and training. We believe that in the coming few years our Armed Forces will double in numbers, God willing."

Regarding a question on future security in the region, HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said: "Regarding Gulf Coperation Council [GCC] states' security, all consecutive resolutions of the summit stipulate that these military forces of the Gulf states should be at the level of responsibility. Naturally, the incidents wake the minds up and open horizons for developing the Armed Forces with regard to their responsibilities."

HRH stated that the resolutions of the recent GCC summit held in Qatar recommended that the defense ministries should continue to support the individual resources of each state and should improve the standards and capabilities of the Armed Forces of each state so that we can all join together to serve our Gulf nation and protect it, in addition to God Almighty's protection, in a suitable way and in a manner that does not hamper the Gulf people's development.

HRH said: "We realize that health and food security is one of the most important issues regarding the peoples. But this does not mean overlooking the military capabilities that safeguard the continuity of health, food, and development security."

When his highness was asked about the security arrangements and whether the Arab forces that helped liberate Kuwait would be a core for this force and about the Egyptian decision to withdraw the Egyptian forces from the Arab Gulf, His Highness Prince Sultan said: "Our problem in some of our Arab papers, regrettably, is that the freedom of the press is sometimes used with the newsman writing an incorrect article, thus causing an uproar." [passage omitted]

His highness pointed out that Egypt's decision to withdraw its forces was from the beginning, i.e. from the day the Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Islamic, Arab, and friendly forces began to arrive in the Kingdom and to be there to defend the Gulf states, and to liberate Kuwait. The basis was that they would come and leave in a clear manner.

His Highness Prince Sultan said: "These forces were to leave in either of two ways: either at the request of the Kingdom, with the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, or their mission would come to an end. Thanks be to Almighty God, the mission came to an end. Kuwait was liberated, and the duty of every head of state was to issue a decision to withdraw his forces. As to how part of these forces would stay with us, in accordance with a request by any of the Gulf states, well, there is the Damascus agreement that allows this, giving any of the Gulf states the right to ask for any force they would want from our Arab and Muslim brothers, and specifically from the states that helped liberate Kuwait." [passage omitted]

Concerning reports on the presence of Ethiopian naval units, ships, and officers in the Farasan Islands, in the Kingdom, his highness said: "As we know, forces from Ethiopia have sought refuge in the Kingdom and a number of states on the Red Sea shores. At any rate, hospitality is a trait of the people of the Kingdom and its leadership who offer hospitality to a guest. Regarding how they would continue to stay, this is a matter for diplomatic debates until we see an ideal way to return them to their homeland."

Regarding calls for holding an Arab summit, HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said: "I would not like to provide answers on behalf of Sa'ud al-Faysal; however, this issue is a matter for the Foreign Ministry, and I have no information whatsoever in this regard."

Regarding the visit of His Majesty Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and reports stating that some aspects of the visit aimed at restoring relations with states that stood by Iraq, HRH indicated: "In fact, what was said is contrary to the truth. What I understood is that Sultan Qabus visited his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to congratulate and thank him for the firm and positive stands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for restoring right." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Egyptian Withdrawal, Issues

LD3005145491 Riyadh SPA in English 1227 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Dammam, May 30, SPA—Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, arrived in Dammam Thursday night on a visit to the eastern province.

Prince Sultan was received on arrival by Prince Muhammad Ibn Fahd, governor of the eastern province, Prince Mishari Ibn Sa'ud, deputy commander of the National Guard in the eastern province and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, Prince Sultan denied any difference in opinion between Egypt and the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and described the Egyptian media interpertation of Cairo's decision to withdraw its forces from the Gulf as erroneous.

Prince Sultan, who has been speaking to reporters following his patronage of the fourth batch of student from the secondary industrial institute and different batches from the industrial training center in al-Kharj yesterday, regretted the misuse of the freedom of the press in causing unnecessary uproar and incitement.

He said some newspapers in Egypt have wrongly interpreted the withdrawal of the forces as a difference in opinion between Egypt and the GCC countries.

Prince Sultan said the interpertation was denied as untrue by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Prince Sultan added that the Egyptian decision was well known from the outset and this applies to other forces from Syria, Morocco, Islamic, Arab and friendly countries.

Prince Sultan stated that the principle was these forces should come and go in accordance with Saudi wishes or when their mission has been completed and Kuwait has been liberated, each head of state should decide about the withdrawal of his country's forces.

He added that the presence of any forces in the Gulf will be based on a request from the concerned Gulf states and noted that the Damascus Accord gives each GCC state the right to request forces from Arab and Muslim countries, especially from those states that took part in the liberation of Kuwait.

Asked about the future of security in the Gulf region, Prince Sultan said the Gulf countries are going ahead with bolstering their military force to defend themselves. The decisions adopted by GCC summit asked the defense ministers to reinforce the military capabilities of their respective countries without prejudicing their countries' development plans.

Asked about the most important topics discussed by the board of directors of the military industries corporation during its meeting in al-Kharj Thursday, Prince Sultan said the board agreed to develop and manufacture a limited number of the Saudi armored vehicle and to expand the production of ammunition to meet the needs of Saudi and Gulf forces.

Prince Sultan praised the offset economic program as a fruit of the Kingdom's efforts to invest the wealth of its people for achieving their welfare.

Prince Sultan confirmed the success of the program.

Regarding the presence of some Ethiopian naval pieces with their men in Farsan Island, Prince Sultan acknowledged that a number of Ethiopian naval vessels sought refuge in the Kingdom and said their military personnel will receive the usual Saudi hospitality.

Concerning some Iraqi statements that said Iraq still has ambitions in Kuwait, Prince Sultan said such statements were some sort of mumbo jumbo for sedating the minds of people in some developing nations.

Regarding the completion of the mission of the joint forces, Prince Sultan said the chief of the general staff and the commander of the force will decide when this mission ends according to the directives of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces but as far I am concerned its mission has ended.

Asked about calls for holding an Arab summit, Prince Sultan said he has no idea about this since the issue comes under the competence of the Foreign Ministry.

Replying to a question about the recent visit of Sultan Qabus of Oman to the Kingdom and whether as it had been reported to discuss the resumption of relations with the countries that sided with Iraq, Prince Sultan said Prince Qabus came for congratulating and thanking King Fahd for his firm and positive stand in the face of aggression.

AFP Report on Saudi Visit to Israel Denied

JN3005203091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 May 91

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] We begin the program with a news item reported by AFP from Jerusalem saying that Saudi national Husayn Hattab, adviser to Prince Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, King Fahd's brother, is paying a visit to Jerusalem. In a statement to AFP, he said that he carries American citizenship and is paying a private visit, because he wants to see Israel and Jerusalem. Asked if he has held contacts with Israelis, he said: I am ready to meet any Israeli who wants to see me. I spoke to officials and non-official figures.

Our correspondent in Riyadh, 'Abdallah al-Shihri, conveyed to us the Saudi position on this news:

[Begin al-Shihri recording] Informed Saudi circles have described the reports that Mr. Husayn, or Ihsan, Hattab has visited occupied Palestine in his capacity as the adviser to Prince Turki Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, Saudi King Fahd's brother, as fabricated, incorrect, and absolutely baseless. The sources recalled reports published in Israeli and Arab newspapers that King Fahd and Prince Turki intended to visit occupied Palestine last month. These reports did not and will not become true. The same sources reiterated that the Saudi position in support of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination did not and will not change, because the relationship between the Saudi people and their fraternal Palestinian people is an eternal one that cannot be affected by events or the change in positions. [end recording]

Joint Forces Commander Meets With Iraqi Refugees

LD3105095891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] Rafha, 29 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces, asserted during his meeting with leaders of the Iraqi tribes at the Rafha camps for Iraqi refugees yesterday that the Kingdom's sheltering of Iraqi refugees is an Islamic precept toward a neighbor, helping when he is in need. This became obvious when King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, ordered the establishment of a camp to receive Iraqi refugees. [passage omitted]

After his highness the commander of the joint forces met with journalists and answered their questions, which were mainly on the Iraqi refugees and the camp sheltering them. His highness stressed that the brother Iraqis are not refugees, but dear guests who have been receiving the necessary care and attention from the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, and its various bodies.

His highness pointed out that the Iraqis will remain guests of the Kingdom until normality, security, and stability has returned to Iraq. He pointed out that the Kingdom has not stated time limit for the stay of the Iraqi refugees in the Kingdom.

Replying to a question on whether the Kingdom will supply the Iraqi refugees with weapons and train them to use them his highness reaffirmed that the Kingdom's policies stipulate noninterference in other countries' internal affairs.

In the course of his replies to journalists' questions, his highness also dealt with Rafha camp for Iraqi refugees and the amount of money which has been spent on it. He said: "The kingdom set up the camp on its own," pointing out that so far 90 million riyals have been spent on this camp and this amount will increase to 127 million riyals. [passage omitted]

Concerning the number of Iraqi prisoners of war still in the Kingdom his highness the commander of the joint forces said: "The number of Iraqi prisoners of war who are still in the Kingdom is between 13,000 and 14,000."

On whether the Iraqi regime is still holding any Saudi prisoners of war, his higness said: "The Iraqi regime is currently holding 10 Saudis and a Syrian prisoner of war," pointing out that two Saudi prisoners will be released in the next two days." [passage omitted]

Bangladesh Premier Arrives; Meets ICO Chief

BK2505170291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was accorded a warm and hearty welcome when she arrived in Jeddah this morning on a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. She was received at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Airport by the governor of Mecca al-Mukarramah, Prince Majid Bin-'Abd-a-'Aziz. Begum Zia was escorted to the royal lounge of the airport where she stayed for some time. The amir of Jeddah city, Dr. 'Abd al-Ghani, assistant secretary general of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], Muhammad Muhsin, and Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Major General Kazi Ghulam Dastgir, were among others present at the airport.

From the airport, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, accompanied by Prince Majid, drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the royal conference palace. Soon after the arrival of the Bangladesh prime minister, the ICO secretary general, Mr. Hamid al-Gabid, called on her at the royal conference palace. He expressed deepest sympathy for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh. He informed the prime minister that he has urged all Muslim countries to extend their all- out assistance and cooperation to Bangladesh. Mr. al-Gabid underscored the need for strengthening the unity and brotherhood among the Islamic countries. He said as one of the biggest Islamic countries, Bangladesh would play a vital role in this regard. The ICO secretary general recalled the contributions of the late President Ziaur Rahman in strengthening the relationship among the Islamic countries and especially mentioned his role during the Iran-Iraq war.

The Bangladesh prime minister will have talks with King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz and other Saudi officials covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations, aftermath of the Gulf war and international issues of common concern. Begum Zia will also perform umrah [minor pilgrimage] in Mecca moazzema.

The prime minister will fly on to Kuwait on Tuesday [28 May] for a day's visit and will hold talks with her counterpart, Shaykh Sa'ad Bin 'Abdallah al-Sabah. Begum Zia will also make a stopover in Abu Dhabi where she is expected to meet Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Earlier, the prime minister met the Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk; PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat; and the French deputy prime minister, Mr. Lionel Jospin; in New Delhi yesterday after attending the funeral of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD2705163991 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, May 27, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal met here Monday Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Minister Mustafizur Rahman and his accompanying delegation.

During the meetings, bilateral relations and way to consolidate them as well as issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Mumena, head of the Asian administration at the Foreign Ministry and Bangladesh Ambassador to the Kingdom Guazi G.Dastgir.

UAE

Bangladesh's Zia Arrives for Talks on Relations

JN2905092891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 May (WAKH)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of a tour of the region's states.

She told the EMIRATE NEWS AGENCY [WAM] that she will hold talks with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and senior government officials on bilateral relations and cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

She said her visit to the UAE also aims at expressing thanks and appreciation for the generous assistance provided by the president, government, and people of the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh, which was stricken by a destructive cyclone that killed thousands of citizens and caused massive material losses. The Bangladesh prime minister [words indistinct] her country's commitment to work for Islamic solidarity and unity [words indistinct] together with the UAE to achieve Islamic solidarity and peace for the peoples of the world.

Confers With Shaykh Zayid

JN2905093291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, met with Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Abu Dhabi this evening.

A responsible source stated that the talks dealt with bilateral ties, ways to enhance them in various spheres, the current situation in the Islamic world, and the need to work to bolster Islamic solidarity.

Turkish Paper Concludes Saddam Interview

NC3005153091 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 29 May 91 p 11

[Final of two installments of interview with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by MILLIYET columnists Bulent Ecevit and Derya Sazak in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Question] Although the war is over, the Middle East problems have not been resolved. Turkey is becoming increasingly worried about the possible emergence of new threats. The United States has established temporary settlements in northern Iraq for the Kurdish refugees. Although these areas have been described as temporary it seems that the United States does not want to withdraw from the region. Do you believe that the United States will withdraw? Are UN Security Council resolutions being exceeded now?

[Saddam] If the United Nations were truly what it is supposed to be, you are correct. A resolution allowing the de facto occupation of northern Iraq does not exist. Unfortunately, however, the truth is that the United Nations acts in accordance with U.S. instructions. Of course, there are good UN officials but the fact is that the United Nations is dependent on the United States. The United States sees to it that resolutions adopted are in its own interests. The powerful countries always maintain a double-standard policy.

We have asked about the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue since 2 August. Why have they been forgotten?

To what extent is the United Nations currently concerned with the Palestinian problem? Look at the other problems in the world. Compare them with what the 30 countries (the coalition forces) have done in Iraq. The UN Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions against Iraq. The different nature of these resolutions is obvious when they are compared with other UN Security Council resolutions.

[Question] U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney has said that the U.S. presence in the region will be maintained even if security is provided for the Kurds in northern Iraq. President Bush has said that "the embargo will not be lifted until Saddam Husayn is gone."

[Saddam] (Raising his hand and his voice as well) What did President Bush say before the war began? He said: "The U.S. presence in the region is temporary. This state of affairs ends when Iraq withdraws from Kuwait."

The war ended two months ago. However, the United States has not withdrawn yet.

The Establishment of a Kurdish State

[Question] The United States may have a satellite state established in northern Iraq to maintain its presence in the region. Turkey is becoming increasingly worried about this. What is your opinion?

[Saddam] I have always said when necessary that the region's countries must establish a common policy through cooperation and understanding.

We must avoid vengeful policies and a vindictive mentality. We must consider problems in depth. Nevertheless, we must all believe that whenever Iraq's national security is threatened, Turkey and Iran must approach the problem from the point of view of their own security.

A serious situation will emerge if a state is overwhelmed by a problem. You are aware of the fact that blood has been shed in Iraq because of the Kurdish problem for the past 30 years. People have become the victims of this problem. Of course, there are a number of reasons for it. However, what have our neighbors done thus far? How do they see the Kurdish problem?

Some of our neighbors prefer not to focus too much attention on it. Others have adopted an opportunist approach. Opportunist behavior has recently been observed not only by the politicians but by the people. The people realize what is being done.

I want to reiterate that harmony is the only way to make the people in the region feel at ease. The neighboring countries will be able to resolve their problems through harmony. If pressure is directed on one of the neighboring countries at times of difficulty, this will upset the balance. Consequently, everyone will suffer and be hurt.

Turkey Criticized

Let us discuss current developments. Foreign forces are in northern Iraq. The military forces of these countries (the United States and Britain) have not been deployed in northern Iraq because of the stated reasons. Furthermore, these forces have crossed into our land (northern Iraq) with the Turkish Government's consent. In fact, they have been encouraged to do so by Turkey. The Turkish people and Turkish officials must realize this fact. They must consider the future. They must carefully consider what is taking place for the sake of their own national security. Neither the neighboring countries nor the region as a whole stand to gain anything from short-term views. The view that an individual or a country stands to gain from saying yes to the powerful countries and agreeing to their wishes may not always be right. One individual and his family may gain from such behavior, but their homeland and people will suffer. They may be confronted with very dangerous possibilities in the region.

The Situation of the Turkoman People

[Question] The public is becoming increasingly worried about regional developments. It has been observed that the Western countries in particular, including the United States, are using the existence of the Kurdish people in northern Iraq as a pretext to promote the idea of a

satellite state. However, the Kurds are not the only people who live in northern Iraq. For example, the Turkoman people are important in and around Karkuk. A rather large number of Turkoman people were among the refugees who fled for the Turkish border after the Gulf war. Nevertheless, world opinion saw the matter as a Kurdish refugee problem and focused its attention on the Kurds. In view of this, while holding talks with the Kurdish leaders on the question of autonomy, are you not looking for a way to contact the Turkoman people as well?

[Saddam] As you know, autonomy means the realization of national rights. It means that minorities are allowed to use their cultural rights in a broad sense in every situation without racial discrimination. If this understanding is disrupted and if the matter reaches the point where we begin to "measure the land inch by inch," it will be as if we are drawing the borders of two states. If this situation is created, it cannot be described as autonomy. It may be regarded as a step. The next would be separation.

Let us now ask a question without going into any detail: Is the question of Karkuk a step toward autonomy or a starting point of the steps that will be taken after autonomy is declared?

The insistence on Karkuk's inclusion in the autonomous region is indicative of the wish for separation.

Yes, we are holding talks with the Kurdish leaders in Baghdad. What I have heard from the Kurdish opposition leaders indicates that they are making an effort to contribute toward Iraq's integrity. They wish to see Iraq as a strong and united country because they are from Iraq.

We have established a dialogue with the Kurdish leaders. I am also aware of the existence of a number of factors which are trying to influence the Kurds. Some may try to promote the idea of separation. However, the foreigners are the ones who think about separation, not the Kurds. The Kurdish' objective is national unity.

If the oppressive forces find an opportunity to wrest some part of Iraq, everyone must realize that their objective is to reduce the size of the oil regions. They may wish to establish a small oil state with this intention in mind. However, the Kurds will probably not be tricked.

As far as the Turkoman people are concerned, they are Iraqi citizens. They have the same rights as the people who live in Baghdad. Their cultural rights are being protected.

[Question] Regardless of the extent of the sincerity and goodwill displayed by Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani and regardless of the effort they make not to break away from Iraq, the EC legislative organs have recently adopted numerous wishful resolutions for the establishment of a satellite state within the borders of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. It is as if an effort is being made to bring back the Sevres Agreement.

You may be able to balance the debate by informing the world that the Turkoman people also live in northern Iraq. Would it not be an appropriate gesture on your part to establish a dialogue with the Turkoman people while maintaining your current talks with the Kurds?

Things Are Being Done

[Saddam] [Addressing Tariq 'Aziz and Latif Jasim, who are present during the interview] Are the rights of the Turkoman people being protected? There have been reports in connection with their situation.

[Question] Their schools have been closed down. Can they not be reopened?

[Saddam] Their cultural rights are being protected.

[Question] Mr. President, we thank you for this interview. Do you wish to convey a message to Turkey and the Turkish people through MILLIYET?

[Saddam] We expect friendship from the Turkish people. We expect them to adopt a more open stand on the aggression against Iraq. The war has seriously damaged regional interests. The peoples of the region will better understand the severity of the losses they have suffered as months and years go by. If Turkey has been confronted with certain situations and if these situations have forced it to maintain its present policy, the Turkish people must be aware of the following reality. Actually, there are already aware of it. This reality is the fact that the Turkish people are a Muslim community. Israel, too, is aware of this fact. Israel is also aware that the Islamic heritage is a firm bridge between the Arabs and the Turks.

We know and believe that Turkey and the Arab countries should act in accordance with their common interests and in line with their Islamic heritage in order to promote their interests and relations. We will continue to believe in what we say. And, we hope that your country and the politicians now in power in time believe in mutual rights. I convey my greetings.

Turkish Newspaper Interviews Tariq 'Aziz

NC3005194591 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 29 May 91 p 10

[First of an unspecified number of installments of interview with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by MILLIYET columnist Bulent Ecevit in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ecevit] We heard that you wished to visit Turkey but the Turkish Government did not respond positively to your request. We have not been able to ascertain why your visit was postponed. Can you explain this?

['Aziz] This is a puzzle we have been unable to resolve.... The reason is that the idea had come from President Turgut Ozal. He told our ambassador in Ankara when he met him in March 1990 that the contacts and economic relations between Iraq and Turkey should be reactivated. [passage omitted]

We have left this matter to be resolved by the Turkish Government. The idea for a meeting came from the Turkish Government. We agreed because we, too, wanted to resume political talks between the two countries. We, too, wanted to discuss the future of our economic relations.

We do not know why the visit was postponed. We can only try to guess the reason. However, you are in a better position to make an assessment.

[Ecevit] Has Turkey sent the flour it promised Iraq?

['Aziz] No.

[Ecevit] If the flour was to be dispatched, would the Americans prevent it from being transported to the inner parts of Iraq?

['Aziz] The question of supplying flour to Iraq is a matter which was considered before the Americans arrived in the region.

[Ecevit] Maybe the matter has become more complicated now.

['Aziz] I do not know. We have not been told anything in that regard. [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] The UN Security Council has disclosed on various occasions that basic foodstuffs and medical supplies are not included within the framework of the embargo. However, this does not seem to be the case. Can you explain this situation?

['Aziz] It is a de facto embargo. If we are not allowed to sell our oil, we cannot buy what we need from foreign countries because of the lack of material resources.

[Ecevit] Do you mean to say that had you been able to pay for your needs, you would be able to import the material you required? Would you be allowed to do so?

['Aziz] Yes.... In fact, we are able to import various items in small quantities. A number of fraternal Arab countries have donated various foodstuffs, including flour. We have been receiving them through Jordan. There is no problem in this regard. Iraq has many needs. We need millions of dollars. That is why we have appealed to the UN Security Council to allow us to sell at least $1 billion worth of oil. However, we have not been allowed to do so yet. The Americans and the British are using dilatory tactics in the commission that has been established by the UN Security Council. They are postponing the lifting of the sanctions. [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] If Iraq cannot earn foreign currency how is it going to fulfill its compensation obligations?

['Aziz] That matter is still being debated. A commission has been set up on the question of compensation. The UN secretary general has submitted a plan to the UN Security Council on the issue. This plan has been approved. However, a number of details related to its implementation were not filled in. Yes, a number of details on percentages and on the implementation of the plan. Nevertheless, unless we are allowed to sell to foreign countries, the fund set up on the question of compensation cannot be put into effect. Unless we earn foreign currency by selling our products, we cannot begin to pay compensation.

[Ecevit] President Bush made a statement a few days ago. He said that the embargo should be maintained as long as President Saddam Husayn remains in power. However, as far as I can tell, that condition is not part of the UN Security Council resolutions.

['Aziz] This is the approach maintained by President Bush and Prime Minister Major. This is the approach maintained by the United States and Britain.... This is their biased political stand. None of the UN Security Council resolutions contains such a condition. The Americans and the British have turned the matter into a personal blood feud. They wanted to have the Iraqi Administration changed right from the very beginning. They have been angered by the fact that Iraq has a stable government supported by the people.

[Ecevit] The members of the UN security force have been arriving in northern Iraq for the past few days. They will reportedly take over the responsibility of the allied forces in the region. However, a few days ago, U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney disclosed that U.S. military forces will not withdraw from the region even after the UN units are deployed. Have you received his statement?

['Aziz] No, I have not yet received his disclosure. We signed an agreement with Agha Khan, the representative of the UN Security Council secretary general, on 18 April. On behalf of all the UN organs, Agha Khan was empowered by this agreement to provide the services required for the return of the displaced Kurds to their homes. The groups established for that purpose have already begun their work. In fact, they have taken over one of the centers established by the Americans in Zakho. They have informed us that they have done so. They have opened an office in Dahuk to provide services required in that area.

We are discussing the final arrangements for the UN security officials. These are not the officials who are known as the "blue berets." They are just security officials. [passage omitted]

These officials will not be a part of armed units. They will only carry light arms, such as handguns. We shall provide these arms. We hope that the United Nations will be more effective in the region. The Americans will then have no excuse to maintain their presence in the region.

The situation now is that most of the Iraqi people, who either fled to Iran or stayed along the Iranian border for a certain period of time, have returned. They returned to Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah and to many areas where the Americans have not entered. We have taken the measures required to facilitate their safe return. We are continuing to take these measures.

[Ecevit] How many people have returned from Iran and from the areas along the Iranian border.

['Aziz] More than 500,000 of our citizens have returned. Tens of thousands are returning every day. A small number of people have remained behind.

We have established very favorable cooperation with the Kurdish parties.

Problems are mostly in Dahuk; that is, the region where the Americans have been deployed. They are in those areas and established a number of centers. They are disseminating propaganda to confuse the people. That is why the people are acting in accordance with their own judgment. Foreign intervention is complicating the situation.

Regardless of this fact, a significant number of our citizens have returned. We have people and trade in Dahuk. [passage omitted]

The services have been restored to the city. We have carried out the necessary restoration work in order to reactivate the services as in the case of other regions.

The Americans have seen that nothing much has been left for them to accomplish. Nevertheless, you are aware that the Americans like to be seen as doing something important. [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] As I have heard U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney say on television, the Americans do not seem willing to withdraw their military forces from the region.

['Aziz] A number of conflicting statements have been made. Sometimes they say, "we do not want to stay there. We do not want to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs." On the other hand, they also say "we have a responsibility. There are things we have to do in connection with the refugees." I do not believe that they decided how long they want to stay in the region. Nevertheless, the validity of the excuse they have put forward for their presence in Iraq is gradually weakening. I believe that the matter can be resolved within a few weeks.

[Ecevit] The Turkish public is becoming increasingly worried that the "temporary" centers the Americans and the British have established in our border region may be converted into a permanent state or a permanent satellite state.

['Aziz] This is a source of anxiety for us as well. We do not know the true intention of those who have established the centers. However, once we conclude the agreement we hope to reach with the Kurdish leaders, they will not have an excuse to maintain their presence in the region.

[Ecevit] President Bush made a statement in connection with that possibility a few days ago. He said that he was skeptical about the validity of the agreement to be concluded with the Kurds.

['Aziz] He is trying to create an impression in the U.S. that we are unable to solve this problem. He is also trying to present himself as the savior of the Kurds. That is why he finds himself in a difficult situation whenever progress is made in the direction of an agreement with the Kurds.

State Minister on Resumption of Oil Exports

JN2705150691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1245 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)—Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hithi, minister of state for oil affairs, has said that Iraq is ready to resume its oil exports via the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline at a rate of one and a half million barrels per day as soon as United Nations approval is received.

In a press conference held today, the minister said the talks held last week between Iraqi and Turkish delegations were positive and fruitful, and that the Turkish side has declared its full readiness to help the Iraqi side expedite procedures for the resumption of oil exports via Turkey.

The minister of state for oil affairs explained that Iraq will ask OPEC's annual conference, scheduled to convene early next month in Vienna, to establish its legitimate right in compensation for the previously allocated quotas, which Iraq lost because of the 30-state aggression.

He stressed that Iraq's oil policy is firm, and that it supports OPEC in reaching an ideal stability in prices that would allow producers to achieve real value for the oil barrel, which is now being sold more cheaply than its true value due to the eagerness of oil-producing countries to increase their production. This increase, he said, leads to the drop in the price of the barrel.

He also clarified that Iraq is seeking to restore 60 percent of its export capacity by the end of this year. He also added that Iraq will seek to increase this percentage in record time next year by using all export outlets and overcoming all problems and obstacles.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hithi, minister of state for oil affairs, said Iraq will participate in the OPEC conference scheduled to convene early next month in Vienna to study supply and demand in the world markets, production levels, and the production ceilings of OPEC member states. The conference will also set a level for the member

states' ceilings for the second half of the current year, and take measures to maintain a minimum price for OPEC oil.

He added that, in the next few years, there will be a tangible increase in the revenue of the Iraqi oil barrel through the ideal utilization of oil resources to accommodate the development of our society and meet essential needs.

'Official Source' on IAEA Team Visit

JN2605123491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1218 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—An official Iraqi Foreign Ministry source has stated that a team representing the special committee of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] visited Iraq from 14 to 22 May 1991 to get acquainted with the nuclear materials and installations in Iraq.

The source added that Iraqi scientists and experts offered the team, which included 34 members from 19 countries, facilities and clarifications that enabled it to fulfill its mission.

He pointed out that the Iraqi authorities gave full freedom to the international team to visit all laboratories, workshops, and job sites; inspect all nuclear materials; take samples and photographs, and enabled it to obtain all the scientific documents and blueprints it has requested. The responsible Foreign Ministry source added that the IAEA issued a statement on 23 May asserting that the Iraqi side showed full cooperation and met all the international team's demands.

The source also said that the Iraqi authorities noticed the existence of a paragraph in the IAEA statement stating that the international team confiscated materials that can be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and that it will transport them outside Iraq. But the statement did not mention any facts about these materials. The source stated these facts as follows:

1. The nuclear materials which the international team confiscated were originally revealed, were known to the IAEA, and were subject to regulations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

2. These are the same materials whose existence was verified by the IAEA inspectors during their visits from 18 to 22 November 1990.

3. They are the same nuclear materials that were disclosed by the Iraqi foreign minister's letter dated 18 April 1991 and whose details were disclosed once again in his letter dated 27 April 1991. There is no decrease or increase in the quantities and types of the enriched and dried [al-munaddab] uranium. The international team has not yet pointed to any uses of nuclear materials for purposes other than those specified and registered by the IAEA.

4. The IAEA knows well that due to their high radiation activity, the small quantities, and the drop in their potency level, these materials cannot be used to produce any nuclear weapons.

The official source said that the international team viewed the 24 major nuclear facilities that Iraq declared through the aforementioned foreign minister's letter. Eighteen of these facilities, including all those subject to the IAEA system of guarantees in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, were fully destroyed. At its request, the international team also visited 70 other facilities which Iraq has not declared because they are secondary centers that included administrative offices, warehouses, services buildings, guard posts, garages, shelters, and others. Also at its request, the international team made a surprise visit to another site outside Baghdad. This site does not belong to the Iraqi nuclear energy organization, and it was subjected to aggression and full destruction. The team carried out a thorough inspection of the site.

The source concluded by saying that the Iraqi technicians explained to the international team how they managed during the U.S. air bombardment, under extremely dangerous conditions, to transfer the nuclear fuel to safe sites to avoid a radiation catastrophe. The team praised this measure and considered it a unique action.

'Official Source' Denies Death Sentences

JN3005065491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 May 91 p 22

[Text] Baghdad, AFP—In a statement to AFP, an official Iraqi source yesterday categorically denied reports on passing death sentences on three Iraqi officials, including former Planning Minister Jawad Hashim, for high treason.

Hashim, who resides in London, told a Canadian news agency the day before yesterday that death sentences had been passed on him and two former ambassadors: Muhammad al-Mashshat, of Washington, and 'Isa al-Rawi, of Canberra.

Hashim added that the death sentences were declared last week during a secret meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council, the highest ruling body in Iraq which is chaired by Saddam Husayn.

Iranians Accused of Killing Soldiers, Citizens

JN2605124791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1212 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, 26 May (INA)—The units of the III Army Corps in the al-Basrah sector have discovered the bodies of 50 martyrs of the Armed Forces who were killed by Iranian infiltrators in the Kushk al-Basri area near the Iranian border. The bodies of the martyrs were left in the open air following the failure of the rioting and sabotage crimes.

The bodies were discovered on 15 May. The hands of all the martyrs, who wore military uniforms, were tied behind their backs. The martyrs could not be identified as a result of mutilation.

The Armed Forces' patrols also discovered the bodies of 105 Iraqi citizens in the Kut Sawadi area 800 meters from the Iranian border on 5 May. These citizens were the victims of a massacre committed by Iranian infiltrators between 24 and 27 April during their escape from Iraqi territories to their bases in Iran.

Rebel Radio Reports Attacks on Iraqi Forces

LD3005213291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Iraqi popular forces have launched a successful attack against a military post belonging to the Iraqi regime's forces. According to the Central News Unit, Radio Voice of Revolutionary [Rebellious] Iraq announced this news on Thursday and added: During the attack, which was launched in the al-'Abadiyah district of Madinah, the popular forces killed a large number of Iraqi forces, destroyed two tanks, three armored personnel carriers, and two ammunition dumps.

The report further indicates that clashes continue between the popular forces and elements of Saddam's regime in al-Najaf, Karbala'; and Kufah.

Anti-Saddam Attacks in Medina Reported

NC3105061291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent in al-Basrah, a group of our heroic revolutionaries successfully attacked a military unit in al-Medina on 20 May, in continuation of the valiant operations against Saddam's mercenaries. They killed and wounded a number of Saddam's military personnel and destroyed three armored personnel carriers.

In another development, another revolutionary group attacked a military control point at the entrance to Medina. The people's revolutionaries killed nine of Saddam's soldiers and a number of officers. They also burned an armored personnel carrier and a military vehicle, and destroyed a four-barrelled machine gun.

Two days earlier, a regiment of Saddam's troops was attacked along the al-Shabakah-Medina road. Ten pro-Saddam soldiers and a number of officers were killed.

Division Commander, Others Said Killed

NC3105061991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 May 91

[Excerpts] After a visit to the Revolutionary Committee's secret location in Medina, our correspondent sent us a report on the names of the pro-Saddam criminals who have been finished off by the uprising's revolutionaries in the Medina area. The report included a long list of pro-Saddam mercenaries who received the just judgment of retribution. [passage omitted]

In another part of his report, our correspondent said that the commander of the 25th Division, a staff brigadier general, and two of his companions were killed in an ambush the revolutionaries laid along the al-Maymunah and al-Salam road. The revolutionaries opened fire on the command vehicle carrying the division commander, killing him and destroying his vehicle.

Shamir Urges Dialogue on Bush Arms Proposal

TA3005132791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said President Bush's initiative on arms reduction in the Middle East is very important and could have a very powerful influence on the region. Mr. Shamir pointed out that we have several questions on the initiative; therefore, it is vital to conduct a dialogue with the United States on that. We will hold consultations on what he said and discuss in detail all the problems involved in the proposal, the prime minister said. Mr. Shamir expressed the hope that he would have the opportunity to hold discussions with the U.S. Administration on the issue.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the prime minister made the remarks to a delegation of British Conservative Party activists.

Foreign Minister Reacts to Bush Initiative

TA3005181491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 May 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Shlomo Ganor and Eli Nisan in the Jerusalem studio on 30 May—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr. Levi.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Ganor] President Bush announced a plan to control the Middle East arms race and perhaps to impose restrictions on weapons systems. Mr. Foreign Minister, what is Israel's response to that?

[Levi] I think that Israel was the first to say that the Middle East arms race must be controlled, that the transfer of lots of expensive, sophisticated arms and arms deals with countries does not square with a peace effort. On the one hand, there is talk about peace and on the other, there are huge arms deals of billions of dollars. Canada published very interesting research that 95 percent of Saddam Husayn's arms were supplied by the five permanent members of the Security Council. Those Security Council members are the ones that went to war against that monster. In other words, they created a monster and then went to war against the danger it threatened them with. We also hear and know about arms deals with the PRC and North Korea, and the huge deal of billions of dollars with Saudi Arabia now being talked about in the United States. Israel was the first to call for a halt to arms supplies, or supervision, or a slow down as part of its aspiration to finally achieve peace and end the state of belligerency and violence in the Middle East.

[Ganor] To return for a moment to President Bush's initiative, can the initiative itself change the strategic balance and harm Israel's deterrent capability?

[Levi] No. Look, there is a saying that the enemy of the good is the very good, that you think you are in control but you are not. If you go after lots of things and parameters then you have not started anything. We must first start with what presently endangers the people, the calm, and the future of the Middle East: To cut down arms supplies and control conventional weapons whose enormity is beyond any sort of proportion. Before the world actually learned about what Iraq possesses, nobody would have believed it had such a variegated quantity of arms. That is also the case with Syria and Libya, and even countries closer to the West. How does the supply of billions of dollars worth of arms go hand in hand with peace? Therefore, we must first start with a drastic cut back in supplies so that there can later be control. Israel has aspired to that, it declared an initiative after the Gulf war. I dispatched a demand to all the states with which we have diplomatic relations to put a brake on the Middle East arms race because it endangers the future while at the same time enslaves the economies.

[Ganor] Does Israel welcome the appearance of the initiative?

[Levi] A large part of it we welcome and part of it we are studying.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, what is the Israeli position on the proposal in the plan to cease the production of materials for nuclear arms in the region?

[Levi] I do not know to whom it refers. I read that the Americans are very concerned about Iraq's capability to produce an atom bomb. We now hear about a reactor being built in Algeria with Chinese aid. Pakistan of course has a capability. The problem is very wide-ranging. We have to see how it can be cut down. I sometimes wonder. Look, what happens is that on every issue the world conscience has an address: Israel. If there is terrorism in some place in the world then Israel is responsible because it is hardline, it is opposed to terror. If there is some difficulty in trade between Europe and the Arabs, it is Israel's fault. If there is unrest in the Maghreb then the finger is pointed at Israel. The atom bomb, which every place in the world is getting and there are facts about a reactor here and there, so what happens? You ask me about Israel, I tell you, you have to be blind not to see everything that is going on. We are studying the issue, we will learn about it, discuss it with the Americans—we are allies—and find out what is being referred to and how the dangers can be lifted. You hear about missiles that can travel thousands of kilometers, so how can it be assured that all that will be cut back. We have to consider what capability there is, who participates, investigate the intentions about conventional arms held by the various states, for instance, chemical weapons. Syria has an enormous potential in chemical weapons. We have reports that Iraq still has chemical weapons. There are other neighboring states here in the Middle East that have them. That is the

easiest issue and it is so terrible. We must therefore start to take action [word indistinct], including missiles and chemicals, and....

[Ganor, interrupting] Does the publication of the U.S. plan without prior coordination with Israel indicate a certain tendency in the U.S. position?

[Levi] No. Sometimes one is astonished by the attempt to mix up two things that have nothing to do with each other. The United States is a superpower, it is independent and decides on its own policy. Does it have to ask Israel first? We are also an independent sovereign country. When a President has his own outlook on how the world should be in a certain number of years, does he need Israel's permission? He presented a plan, we will study it, learn what its effectiveness is, how he thinks of implementing it, the dangers close to us and far off. In general, how the international community, the United States on its own, or perhaps jointly with others, deal with it. All these are very grave issues. Anything that can reduce the danger of war while assuring Israel's security, we will study.

[Ganor] Mr. Levi, from your remarks it seems you are skeptical about the implementation of the plan.

[Levi] No, under no circumstances. It is only that I see the efforts of the states to obtain arms and arsenals over many years and the effort of developed states, including superpowers, to sell and provide arms for billions of dollars. I do not understand how that is explained. I want to study how it can be curtailed, stopped, destroyed. All that has to be learned and understood. Anyway, it is not a matter of fixing everything by pushing a button, and then the wolf will dwell with the lamb.

[Ganor] Will that be a subject for discussion between Jerusalem and Washington?

[Levi] We always discuss subjects relating to balance of forces and arms in the world. It is our concern. We must aspire to a good life. The question of life in Israel has special value and significance.

[Ganor] That leads me to the second issue, which is linked to the first, and that is the peace process. Despite the general view that Secretary of State Baker failed in his efforts, that the political process has been terminated, you believe that the process is still alive and will go on. What is the basis for your optimism?

[Levi] Only months ago, each of us built up hopes, wishes, a prayer in the heart, that the political process would move ahead. I now see a new national sport....

[Nisan, interrupting] It is not only in Israel, it is throughout the world.

[Levi] That is not true, I did not hear about it. I have no official announcement about it, no proof. I know that there are still feelers, meetings, studies into specific issues to which governments must provide answers. I do not know what the point is in getting up each day and saying that the process is dead. I have also heard it from certain Knesset members. I believe it is a mistake. First, Israel has no desire to see the process dying—the contrary is true. It shows that either you want it to die or that you are desperate. Desperation is not a policy. I therefore have no sign that it is dead or dying or stuck or that it has struck a sand bar. There is a study of certain issues. By the way, before leaving here Baker told us he was waiting for answers from Syria and Jordan. The moment he receives them he will update us. These days, we are counting on that. Israel made a huge effort to advance the peace process. We resolved many issues although it seemed that they cannot be resolved. The other side, which must prove that it really wants peace, must provide the answers. We will wait. Why should we say that the process is dead? We did everything to make sure that it lives and gives life.

[Nisan] You said in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that several Arab states are due to provide answers to Israel. What type of answers, and what is the dispute centered on?

[Levi] I did not say that they have to provide answers to Israel, but to the U.S. secretary of state. He presented them with issues requiring a reply. We will wait. I am not conducting negotiations with the Arab states, not yet anyway, but I believe it will come. In the meantime, the secretary of state maintains the link with them, the talks with them. I suggest we wait until we hear from him. It will surely be in the coming days or weeks.

[Ganor] That brings us back to U.S.-Israeli relations. How would you now define the relations against the background of Baker's statements on settlements and the U.S. vote in the Security Council against Israel?

[Levi] I will only provide you one thing, Baker's answer when he left Israel. He said that there is an understanding with Israel on most issues, which is an important contribution to advancing the peace process. I just quoted. We also said that what is left will not be the obstacle over which the peace process will become stuck. We will now wait and see how the Arab states make their contribution. In his testimony to congressional committees we saw that the written testimony he disseminated beforehand of his speech was just fine. It reflected the situation, the talks, the understandings, and the still unsettled problems. It did not contain anything beyond what he said here. However, when he was asked by the committee chairman about settlement in Judaea and Samaria, he released a tirade of bitterness on that issue. I believe he was mistaken. I made that clear. There is a dispute on that issue between us and the United States. It did not start today and is not at all linked to the peace process. It has always been a point of dispute. The United States has its position and we have ours. We said that we beg to differ on that issue, but that it will not be the obstacle to any progress. The bitterness in his remarks over that issue, which was not born today and is a known dispute, created the impression that Israel is the

obstacle, that it is the reason that the whole process is about to collapse, which is not true. [passage omitted]

Arens Calls Relations With U.S. 'Excellent'

TA3105070391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 May 91

[Excerpt] Relations between Israel and the United States are excellent and getting even better, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated last night at a reception for U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. Secretary Cheney reiterated Israel's restraint during the Gulf war. Our military correspondent Amir Fink reports:

[Begin recording] [Fink] Speaking at the festive reception he gave in honor of Secretary Cheney, the defense minister said: Now it is no longer a secret. A few days before the Gulf war broke out we set up a secret phone link between our two offices. During the war we had numerous conversations on this line.

[Arens, in English] I think that if there were a recording of the very many conversations that Dick Cheney and I had during those few weeks, they would bear testimony to the very close and intimate relationship that exists between Israel and the United States.

[Fink translates the above and continues] Minister Arens went on to say that relations between the two countries are excellent and getting even better. Secretary Cheney once again remarked on Israel's restraint during the Gulf war. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir on Holding Territory of Eretz Yisra'el

TA3105065991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated last night that the only guarantee for our existence is a generation of faithful Jews who will never forsake even one lump of the earth of Eretz Yisra'el, even if they have to irrigate it with a sea of sweat and tears. Our correspondent Uri Revah reports:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] The only guarantee for our existence and our future is a generation of faithful and strong Jews deeply rooted in our land, a generation that will never abandon any suffering and persecuted Jew, even if he must be brought from far away, from the deserts of Ethiopia or the Russian steppes. These Jews will never forsake even one lump of the earth of Eretz Yisra'el [applause], even if they have to irrigate it with a sea of sweat and tears.

[Revah] In a thanksgiving rally for the miracles the Israeli people experienced in the Gulf war, held in the Nahalim Yeshiva near Petah Tiqva, Shamir refused to include in his speech any reference to the peace process or the U.S. President's initiative on disarmament in the Middle East. The prime minister opted to talk about what he termed the emotional experience of rescuing the Ethiopian Jews in Operation Solomon. The State of Israel is being built, Shamir said, and its Jewish population is increasing. [end recording]

Japanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

TA3005145291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The Japanese foreign minister has arrived in Israel. It is the first visit by a Japanese foreign minister to Israel. Foreign Minister David Levi, who received the minister at the airport, told our correspondent Dan Eshel that Japan should act like the other enlightened countries, the United States and Europe, in its attitude toward the Arab economic boycott. The Japanese foreign minister's visit will last three days and will deal mainly with trade.

Talks With Levi Begin

TA3005180191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The Japanese foreign minster, Taro Nakayama, arrived here today for a three-day visit which is expected to focus mainly on trade issues and Tokyo's position on the Arab boycott. Foreign Minister David Levi, who welcomed the visitor, told Qol Yisra'el that if Israel manages to persuade Japan to adopt the positions of other enlightened countries in regard to the Arab boycott, this would be a major achievement. Nakayama and Levi are now holding talks at the foreign minister's office in Jerusalem. On the line from the Foreign Ministry is Jack Katzenell:

[Katzenell] Well the two ministers have not yet gotten around to the bilateral issues such as the Arab boycott and the trade and Japanese investment in Israel or the lack of it. So far they've talked mainly about the Middle East situation. David Levi expressed known Israeli positions. He talked about the growing fanaticism in some parts of the Arab world and the fact that some Arab countries are demanding that they get a guarantee on how the negotiations are going to end as a precondition for starting them.

The Japanese foreign minister, Taro Nakayama, said that Japan supports the Americans' peace efforts and Japan is prepared to play a role in the area of confidence-building measures, in the economy, the ecology, creating incentives for peace and that kind of thing. He said that the Gulf war was an example of the determination of the countries of the world to apply UN resolutions. He said that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 should be applied to the occupied territories. Israel should agree to this, so he said.

There was some embarrassment when the Japanese foreign minister used both the word Israel and the word Palestine. I think Palestine was in the context of the territories. This may have been due to the fact that his words are being translated from Japanese into English and then they are being translated from English into Hebrew for Foreign Minister Levi, so the whole process

of discussion is a little bit heavy. Now the Japanese foreign minister also paid Israel a compliment. He said that Israel is doing what it can to promote the peace process by adopting a flexible, realistic position. This is Jack Katzenell at the Foreign Ministry.

Aid for Refugees Discussed

TA3105090891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Today Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proposed to the visiting Japanese foreign minister to launch an initiative to solve the problem of the refugees through Japanese-U.S. aid. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

[Begin recording Segal] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to consider launching a Japanese initiative, in cooperation with the United States, to plan and execute an operation to eliminate the Palestinian refugee camps in the territories. These camps are a negative element impeding the peace process, Shamir said. The problem can be settled at a relatively low cost, regardless of any political solution that may be reached in the future, the prime minister stressed.

Shamir went on to say that a larger presence of Japanese firms, tourists, and ministers in Israel would facilitate Japan's involvement in Middle East affairs. He said he hoped commercial relations between the two countries would develop.

The prime minister gave the guest an elaborate explanation about the peace process and Israel's willingness to pursue it. The Japanese foreign minister expressed his interest in promoting the peace process, and noted that the impression he had from his visit to the Arab countries is that in the wake of Iraq's defeat, they are willing to enter a peace process. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 31 May adds that earlier this morning, Nakayama discussed bilateral relations in a meeting with President Hayim Herzog. President Herzog "complained that during a tour of the region on the eve of the Gulf war, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu did not visit Israel, although Israel was the only country threatened by Saddam Husayn."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 31 May adds that in a meeting between Nakayama and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Arens expressed the hope that "Japan would bring its influence to bear on North Korea to stop its arms supplies to the countries of the Middle East."]

DPRK Scud Sales Discussed

TA3005141191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 May 91 p 1

[Report by Tokyo correspondent Daniyel Bloch]

[Excerpts] Israel asked Japan to try to persuade North Korea to refrain from selling Scud missiles and other sophisticated weapons to Syria or other Arab countries. This was reported to DAVAR by Japanese sources in Tokyo. The sources said that this issue may be raised during the talks Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will hold tomorrow in Jerusalem. 'Amos Radiyan, the Israeli Embassy spokesman in Tokyo, stated that the embassy had no knowledge of any appeal to North Korea.

Yusiji Nugami, the senior adviser on Middle Eastern affairs at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, told DAVAR this week that Japan wants to play a more active role in international affairs, especially in the Middle East, in light of the lessons drawn in the wake of the Gulf war. In this context, Japan now understands that it must effect a complete normalization in its relations with the State of Israel, and the purpose of the Japanese foreign minister's visit to Israel is to create the framework to guarantee full economic and diplomatic ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Nugami nevertheless stressed that better relations with Israel do not necessarily mean that Japan will accept Israel's positions on political issues. Japan will continue to express its position in support of an international conference and the establishment of a Palestinian state, and Foreign Minister Nakayama will express this position in his talks in Jerusalem with the prime minister and the foreign minister, and in his meeting with Palestinian notables from the territories, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Japan would be willing to help Israel improve its relations with other countries in the Far East, especially with both the Koreas and with the PRC if necessary. [passage omitted]

Shamir Views Husayn Readiness To Negotiate

TA3105091691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 May 91 p 3

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] In recent days, Jerusalem has received information indicating that King Husayn is now, more than ever, ready to enter negotiations with Israel, in accordance with the government's peace initiative. In recent days, Husayn has even expressed his agreement to the participation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in talks with Israel.

According to the senior political circles in Jerusalem who reported this, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that this time, he believes the king more than he did in the past, and he has asked the United States to take action toward strengthening the Jordanian regime vis-a-vis opposition elements—mainly against the Islamic movement.

The circles further said that if the Americans compensate the king for the losses he suffered in the wake of his support for Iraq, which resulted in the loss of aid from the Gulf states, his readiness to join negotiations will grow.

Arens Denies Meeting Visiting Saudi Official

TA3005200991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The defense minister's office tonight denied that Mr. Arens conferred with a Saudi official who arrived in Israel several days ago. The man, Husayn al-Khattab, is presenting himself as an adviser to the brother of the Saudi monarch and as a representative of the Saudi royal family in the United States. He is of Egyptian descent and has a U.S. passport.

Saudi Envoy Story Called 'Sham'

TA3105085091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Senior Israeli sources warn that the alleged Saudi envoy is not in any way related to Saudi Prince Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, whom he purports to represent. Our Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor is in the studio with more details:

Important political talks, a historic breakthrough—this is how the Israeli media described the affair over the past 24 hours. We would like to give you the full details of the so-called Saudi affair, as we put them together overnight.

Senior Israeli sources described the visit by an envoy on behalf of Prince Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz as yet another episode in an Oriental bazaar fable. Husayn al-Khattab, who introduced himself as an envoy of the prince, is the director of an Egyptian travel agency named Nefertiti. According to the Israeli sources, he came to Israel apparently to promote his private business. Although he is of Egyptian extraction, he landed here at the beginning of the week bearing a U.S. passport and immediately proceeded to the Israeli Foreign Ministry. He met with senior Ministry officials, apparently including Tzvi Gabay, the Egypt Division director.

The meeting at the Foreign Ministry lasted only five minutes, and at the end of it the officials concluded that the whole issue was a sham, because the man could not produce any evidence of his relations with the Saudi prince. He was unequivocally told that Israel is not interested in hosting Prince Turki, because he is an oppositionist to King Fahd. The senior Israeli sources explained to him that Israel is not in the habit of talking to opposition elements and, what is more, if King Fahd had been interested in launching a dialogue, he would not have done it through Hattab or Prince Turki and would have not have given it the publicity Hattab did. Husayn al-Khattab, who had demanded that the Foreign Ministry provide him with a limousine for the extent of his visit, was humiliated by the rejection. What is more, he expected the Foreign Ministry to immediately believe what he said about his relations with Prince Turki. He gave a long list of complaints to the Israelis who met with him. The next day, Hattab requested another audience at the Foreign Ministry, but was refused. Since then he has been staying at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem. Another point I would like to mention is that he did not confer with Defense Minister Arens.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 31 May, in a page 1 report by Amir Neumann, Yoram Levi, Pazit Rabina, and Dan Avidan, writes: "DAVAR has learned that the Saudi emissary arrived in Israel several days ago, during which time he tried to reach peace process-related understandings with the Israeli Government. His moves were made with the knowledge of and in coordination with the U.S. Administration. One may recall that several ministers had suggested the possibility of striking a deal, in the framework of the peace process, according to which Saudi Arabia would finance the rehabilitation of refugee camps. This issue was apparently discussed in the Saudi emissary's talks in Jerusalem.

["The talks are believed to have ended in failure with regard to bridging certain gaps between Israel and Saudi Arabia, after which the Israeli Foreign Ministry decided to turn to the United States and to ask for its mediation in bridging these gaps."]

AL-FAJR Journalist Criticized for Article

TA3005110491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 May 91 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] A peace plan published in the Arabic daily AL-FAJR two weeks ago has come under sharp criticism in the Jerusalem Arabic press, and its author has apologized for publishing it.

Talal al-Safi, 37, a Hebron-born journalist and lawyer recently released from prison after spending two years there as a leading Fatah activist, had proposed a step-by-step process leaving the issues of a state, settlements and Jerusalem until the final stage. The plan gave the impression that Israel could retain all settlements except those "close to" Arab population centers, and that negotiations could lead directly to a confederation with Jordan—without a Palestinian state. It accepted that a Ramallah delegate could represent Jerusalem.

The weekly AL-MANAR, considered to have a pro-Egypt orientation, complained about what it called "plans for public action." An article published in AL-FAJR by Nabil 'Abd-al-Rahman, a journalist working at the media center headed by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, called the plan haftajah—a little-used and abusive word meaning work done under the influence of alcohol.

More surprisingly, the plan's historical introduction was also attacked. By putting the Palestinian-Israel conflict into the context of 4,000 years of history it appeared to give Zionism historical depth and biblical legitimacy. Al-Safi's detractors pointed out that the PLO considers Zionism to be no more than a tool of 20th-century imperialism. Indeed, the status of the PLO in the plan was considered very vague, as it gave a great deal of negotiating power to locally elected Palestinians.

Faced with such criticism, al-Safi is reported to have admitted that his plan was "dangerous" and should not have been published without more prior discussion.

The plan had some defenders, who compared its call for confederation with Jordan to proposals put forward by Khalid Hasan, a popular aide to Yasir 'Arafat, and a man thought by many to be 'Arafat's potential successor.

Fatah Member Said Released From Israeli Prison

NC3005115491 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 30 May 91

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, May 30 (AFP)—Israel, which has accepted the principle of an offer to trade Arab prisoners for Israeli soldiers missing or detained in Lebanon, on Thursday released a Lebanese man after four years in jail.

Muhammad Bardan, 25, was a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fatah guerrilla group at the time of his arrest four years ago inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

He was handed over to the International Committee for the Red Cross on the Lebanon-Israeli border. There was no immediate reason from Israel for the move.

Mr. Bardan told AFP he was seized as he planned to infiltrate into Israel to carry out a commando operation. Two other guerrillas accompanying him were killed by Israeli patrolmen.

An Israeli military tribunal had sentenced him to eight years in prison but overnight Wednesday he was informed of his early release. [passage omitted]

Beirut Radio Reports Release

NC3005165591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The Israeli forces today released Lebanese citizen Muhammad Badran, who has been detained for four years. He was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that the front has not received any reply to its offer to discuss the exchange of Lebanese and Palestinian detainees despite the DFLP's willingness to exchange them for the corpse of Israeli prisoner Sergeant Samir As'ad.

The spokesman held the Israeli authorities fully responsible for refusing to release Lebanese and Palestinian detainees.

Palestinian Forces on 'Alert' for Israeli Attacks

NC3005180691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] REUTER has cited security sources in Sidon as having said that the armed Palestinian organizations have been placed in a state of readiness in the wake of reports that Israeli forces have reinforced their positions in the Kafr Falus area.

Palestinian sources said that the Palestinian fighters have been mobilized within the Popular Liberation Army forces in that area.

Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has stated that since the signing of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty, Israel has been persistently causing tension on the combat lines in the area east of Sidon. He indicated that military movements and fortifications are taking place on the opposite side in preparation for some kind of action. Sa'd added: We have also taken action to prepare our forces to confront any eventuality or any campaign Israel may launch.

Abu-Darwish, military commander of the Popular Liberation Army, has stated that he has put his forces on alert to confront any military operation. He added: It is natural for us to counter preparations with similar preparations.

A member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the following in reference to the Israeli movements: We sound the alarm anew and call for focusing attention on the Israeli practices in the south. He added that the PLO forces are battling to implement Resolution 425. He also expressed complete readiness to facilitate the implementation of the plan to deploy the Lebanese Army in the south.

AFP has reported that the Israeli forces have deployed four missile batteries and eight armored cars in the town of al-'Ayshiyah inside the border strip. AFP added that the artillery pieces that are manned by 40 soldiers have been deployed in positions opposite those of Hizballah. AFP indicated that the new Israeli positions fired over 70 shells at Hizballah positions last Friday.

News Agencies on Alert

NC3105061091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] There is renewed concern about the situation in the south amid Israeli concentrations and the declaration of a state of alert among Lebanese and Palestinian fighters. REUTER cites security sources in Sidon as saying that the armed organizations and Palestinian fighters have been placed on alert following reports that the Israeli forces have reinforced their positions in the Kafr Falus area. AFP reports that four Israeli missile batteries and eight armored vehicles were deployed in the al-'Ayshiyah area inside the border strip last night. The agency said that artillery has been installed in positions facing Hizballah bases.

Israeli and South Lebanese Army sources said that this is just a routine rotation of forces.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly South, Beirut

NC3105085691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Israeli military planes broke the sound barrier over the capital just before 1100 today. Earlier these planes conducted sorties in the south.

PRC Delegation Begins Visit to Damascus

Qiao Shi Leads CPC Group

JN2805151791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] A CPC delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon headed by Comrade Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Comrade Dr. Fawwaz Sayyagh, reserve member of the Ba'th Party National Command; the comrade secretary of the Ba'th Party Damascus rural branch; several of cadre comrades in the Ba'th Party National Command; and the Chinese ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Comrade Qiao Shi made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he stressed that China—party and leadership—is very much interested in its relations with Syria, and that we always place priority on developing and entrenching solidarity and cooperation with the developing countries, which is a major part of our peaceful and independent foreign policy. We are very pleased that the relationship between our two parties, the CPC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, is developing successfully, thereby enhancing ties between the two countries.

Party Talks Open 28 May

JN2805191791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] A round of talks was held this evening at Ba'th Party Regional Command headquarters between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, under the leadership of Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the party assistant secretary general, and a delegation from the CPC, led by Comrade Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee.

The two sides reviewed the growing improvement in cooperation between them within the framework of the program [not further identified]. They also discussed the executive measures to improve and broaden this cooperation to strengthen the ties of traditional friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Arab-Israeli Conflict Reviewed

JN2805192291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpts] A round of party talks was held this evening at the Ba'th Party Regional Command headquarters between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under the leadership of Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, party assistant secretary general, and a delegation from the Communist Party of China led by Comrade Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee. [passage omitted]

The two sides reviewed the developments and trends toward establishing world peace. They stressed that this peace can be stable and comprehensive only if all hotbeds of tension, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, are removed.

The views between the two parties were similar or identical on the issues raised, particularly on the need to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question on the basis of UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

Al-Asad Receives Delegates

JN2905141691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1130 today the CPC delegation headed by Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1000 today the CPC delegation led by Comrade Qiao Shi. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr. Fawwaz Sayyagh, reserve member of the party National Command; Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Farzat, director of foreign relations at the party National Command; and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus.

During this meeting, talks focused on the strong relations that exist between Syria and China, and the solid friendship that binds the two countries, peoples, parties, and governments, which was constantly enhanced through political, economic, cultural, technical, and trade cooperation. Al-Zu'bi stressed Syria's desire to develop and entrench bilateral relations in the various fields, and expressed his appreciation for China's positions in support of Syria and the just Arab causes. He also underscored the importance of party and government meetings between officials of the two friendly countries and how these meetings helped broaden horizons and secure cooperation in various fields.

For his part, Qiao Shi stressed China's desire to strengthen its ties with Syria in the various fields. He underscored the deep-rooted Syrian-Chinese friendship and the two countries' wide capabilities to attain positive results in the various fields. Qiao Shi conveyed the greetings of the Chinese leadership to al-Zu'bi, who also asked him to convey his personal greetings. The talks also dealt with several issues of interest to both countries.

Further on al-Asad Meeting

JN2905162691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Today at 1130 His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received the CPC delegation headed by Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus.

Qiao Shi conveyed to the president the greetings of the Chinese party and government, which the president accepted gratefully. He asked him to convey similar greetings to the Chinese leadership and the friendly people of China.

The talks dealt with the international situation, Middle East matters, and current international efforts to activate a peace process in the region. The president stressed Syria's commitment to work for establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions and its constant readiness to cooperate with efforts to settle the region's crisis based on the uniform standards of international legitimacy.

Qiao Shi praised Syria's principled and constructive positions. He said: The Chinese position on the situation in the Middle East is basically identical to Syria's position. He also said that China insists on the natural role of the United Nations in the peace efforts in the region.

Talks also touched on the existing cooperation and friendship relations between the two countries. The two sides stressed the need to continue and develop these relations.

Foreign Ministry Denies Rejecting Baker's Plan

JN3005163691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 30 May (SANA)—Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Damascus has said that a responsible source at the Syrian Foreign Ministry has denied a statement attributed by AFP to PLO Executive Committee member Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] in which he said that Syria and the PLO reject U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan to hold a conference for peace in the Middle East.

The source also ruled out that any member of the Palestinian delegation that held talks in Damascus had made such a statement, particularly since the Syrian and Palestinian sides agreed on the importance of holding a conference for peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions, particularly 242 and 338.

Radio Cites PLO Statement on Talks in Tunisia

JN3105062891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Tunis—The PLO Executive Committee has discussed the results of the important visit to Damascus by a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, as well as the delegation's meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials.

In a statement issued today on the Executive Committee meeting in Tunis yesterday and today, the committee said the Syrian-Palestinian meetings had positive results in promoting joint coordination and strengthening ties and contacts among the confrontation states in order to ensure the Arab position and provide elements of success for an international peace conference that will play an effective, fruitful role based on international resolutions and legitimacy under UN supervision [ishraf], and with the participation of all parties to the dispute, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The statement said the Executive Committee appreciated the fraternal Syrian position, and it confirmed the importance of continuing consultations and coordination and promoting ties to serve the national and pan-Arab aims at this stage when the Arab position is being exposed to extensive danger.

The committee also reviewed contacts with Lebanese officials, especially Foreign Minister Faris Buways, to facilitate the spread of Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, an end to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and the implementation of UN Resolution No. 425, and to ensure the safety of the Palestinian camps and people in Lebanon.

The statement said that the Executive Committee also discussed the results of contacts held by Palestinian delegations on the political process in the region following the Gulf war.

Commentary Decries Israeli Settlement Policy

JN2905185391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Between those who are concerned about peace in the Middle East and those working to kindle the flames of conflict and create a climate of war, there are big differences that can be noted whose degrees can be estimated by all who are interested in peace and all who have followed events in the Middle East throughout the past 50 years. A just peace in its abstract meaning cannot be less than rectifying the equation on the basis of removing any injustice and realizing every right so that the pretexts of the conflict will end, the

factors of fighting will disappear, and the fabricated laws of falsehood will be replaced by rules of justice and the laws of justice.

In a situation similar to the one prevailing in the Middle East, there is no injustice similar to the one exercised on Palestinian land and the occupied Arab territory, or to the injustice practiced against the Arabs living on it. All this territory was overrun by force of arms; it was occupied before the eyes and ears of the world; and its people were expelled to the diaspora in the ugliest operation of invasion, settlement, and displacement known in our contemporary history. Correcting this situation—in the simplest concepts on which the world has agreed and which are stipulated in the UN resolutions—first calls for the liberation of this land and the return of its original people to it, so that peace will have an opportunity to establish the features of a new situation, in which the peoples in the region can live in an atmosphere of security and prosperity.

But what we are seeing today—despite the efforts to rectify the situation and launch the peace process, and despite the lessons learned from the Gulf war and the laws and norms on which it was based—is a continuation and followup of the course of the falsehood carried out by Israel covertly and openly without fear of any punishment and without showing any respect for the international community, its resolutions, and desire to achieve peace in the region. Building settlements has not stopped, and Israel does not intend to stop it. The transfer of the new Jewish immigrants to the occupied territory has not stopped, either, and Israel does not intend to stop it. On the contrary, Israel announces day and night that the course of building settlements is a firm principle in the Zionist government program, and that bringing in new Jewish immigrants from all over the world is the essence of the Zionist doctrine and at the top of the urgent tasks of Israel's leaders. The recent Operation Solomon in which Falasha Jews were transferred from Ethiopia is part of a big operation whose stages have not been completed yet.

Things being as they are, which peace is Israel looking for, and which security is it searching for in this region? How can building settlements and transferring new emigrants to the occupied territory become an expression of a humanitarian inclination while the world witnesses hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Arabs expelled from their homeland without support or shelter? Are the laws of mercy and human value possessed by Israel alone in the whole world? Can arbitration and judgment on these laws only be made in the interest of Israel? Or does Israel continue as usual to fight justice in the name of justice, to kill people in the name of humanity, and stab peace in its heart in the name of the pretexts of peace? For how long will the world continue to hear and believe this tragic farce, which has swelled minds and ears?

Radio Blames Stalled Peace Efforts on Israel

JN3005184491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After intense regional efforts to activate the peace process in the region for the past three months, the process has still not been launched. It is difficult to predict when it will be launched in the near future at least. The diplomatic moves and the shuttle tours have ended, despite their strong momentum, in what looks like a vicious circle. The reason, by everybody's admission, is the Tel Aviv rulers' maneuvers, which are directed by the illusions of bypassing the peace opportunity that arose after the Gulf war, imposing the fait accompli, and obtaining land, rights, and peace in one stroke from the Arabs.

We do not deviate the truth if we say that the Israel rulers have in mind—as a result of the Gulf crisis and its destructive effects on the overall Arab situation—the dream of total Arab capitulation to their conditions. Therefore, their no's have escalated and have become uncountable.

They do not want to exchange land for peace; and they do not want to recognize the Palestinian people's existence or any right of this people. They neither want international or UN resolutions. They do not want international law as a basis; they do not want the international organization to play any role. Nor do they want any effective participation by the permanent members of the Security Council, including the United States and the USSR. They neither want effective EC participation nor the proposed peace conference to continue. They do not want this and they do not want that. And then they claim that the Arabs place preconditions for the peace process, as if these No's are not preconditions.

Above this and that, it is sufficient to look at the extent of the Israeli rejection of the United Nations and of its participation in the peace process to know what ruthless war Israel is declaring against international legitimacy, and consequently, against the whole international community—whose principles, laws, charters, and resolutions it believes itself to be above.

Whoever evades the United Nations, rejects its role and influence, and opposes international legitimacy and uniform standards does not seek peace. And whoever takes preconditions that are the resolutions of the international organization itself as a pretext, does not seek a just solution, but seeks disassociation from the charter of this organization and all its principles.

We neither expect nor want the United Nations to be biased toward our position, but we call on it to seek the arbitration of international law in the Arab-Israeli conflict, which this international organization has lived with since it was established. We only want to be on the side

of its unanimous resolutions and to work to reactivate them on the ground and to implement them.

Our question is the following: When were seeking UN arbitration, the call for standardizing the criteria of international legitimacy, and accepting the resolutions of the international organization contrary to peace, or not in the service of resolving regional and wider disputes?

If this path neither achieves peace nor leads to security and stability in the region, what other path then can achieve this? If Israeli rulers boast of the fact that their entity is a full-fledged member in the United Nations and that this organization was the one that gave this entity a legitimate existence, then why do they fudge on the participation of this international organization and why are they insisting by every way to exclude this organization and absolutely reject its role in the peace process in the region? If the cause of the Israeli rulers' avoidance of a serious peace conference is their expectation, as was alleged by Zionist sources, that the conference would be a trial of their conduct and views that adhere to occupation and settlement, then this is a confession on their part of the abnormality of their situation and their departure from the charters that organize the whole spectrum of international relations.

However, no matter how recalcitrant and inflexible the Israeli position might get, it is neither justifiable nor acceptable for it to be an exception from international legitimacy and to impose on the international community the measures and forms it desires for the peace conference and peace itself. This is because the measures and standards of international legitimacy should not be a game, and dealing with these standards should not be disparate in two different areas.

Syria, through its leader President Hafiz al-Asad, has expressed a strong desire to achieve peace. It is a continuing desire, in addition to the fact that Syria's adherence to international legitimacy and its insistence on an effective UN role reflect its true intentions to see the proposed peace conference a serious conference that leads to achieving comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

Under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria's position on the peace process, based on its insistence on the comprehensiveness and justness of peace and its being safeguarded by UN guarantees, has become an unarguable defense of Arab rights and a legal weapon that is deeply respected by the international community.

If Israeli rulers persist in their attempts to thwart any effort for real peace and are dreaming of an absolute Arab surrender to their terms, we tell them that this surrender is impossible given the determination to achieve Arab rights and restore Arab territory. Any compromise of these constants is prohibited as established in the hearts and minds of millions of Arabs.

India

More Troops To Be Sent to Punjab for Elections

BK3005145691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Elections in Punjab are to be held on the 22d of next month as scheduled. This was stated by the minister of state for home, Mr. Subondh Kant, in New Delhi today. He told newsmen that the report of the state governor was reviewed by his ministry this morning. He said it has been decided to send 150 companies of paramilitary forces to the state by Sunday [2 June]. This will be in addition to 396 companies already stationed there. The minister said 150 to 200 more companies will be sent to the state before the election date.

Punjabis Urged To Vote 'Without Any Fear'

BK3105091891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, reviewed the poll arrangements in Punjab at a meeting of senior civil and police officials in Amritsar today. He said sufficient number of paramilitary forces will reach Punjab within the next few days to provide security to the candidates as well as the people so that elections are held freely and peacefully.

Mr. Subodh Kant called upon the people to exercise their franchise without any fear and pressure. The minister said the elections in the state will be held as per the schedule and the question does not arise about its postponement.

North Sri Lankan Woman Arrested in Madurai

BK3105024891 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] According to a PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] report, a 30-year-old woman, Mrs. Shanitini Joshephine, hailing from Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka, was taken into custody for interrogation while moving around under suspicious circumstances at Madurai railway junction last night. According to the police, the woman was moving around near the sthi [urn containing ashes of Rajiv Gandhi] special train. Earlier, she was seen speaking to a man who disappeared suddenly. Police said the woman did not have a valid passport. Her passport is very old and she had a diary with some foreign addresses in it.

Iran

Ministry Assails Transfer of Ethiopian Jews

LD2905180591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement today strongly attacking the treacherous plan by which Ethiopian Jews were transferred to occupied Palestine, a plan conducted within the framework of gathering Jews from various parts of the world and housing them in the occupied territories. The policy enjoys the support of the world's major powers, led by the United States.

The statement calls on the world's Islamic, Arab, and nonaligned countries to take immediate action in this regard. It also points out that these actions were taken in order to take advantage of the particular situation in the region by forcing Palestinians from their homelands by resorting to military, security, and administrative methods. The statement stresses complete support for the struggles of the people of Palestine, particularly the intifadah, against the Zionist regime.

Further on Ministry Statement

LD3005154391 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—A communique of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Wednesday condemned the migration of the Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine calling it "an outrageous move against the independence and national security of the countries of the region and the deprived and oppressed Palestinians."

It said the "treacherous scheme of migrating thousands of the Ethiopian Jews to the occupied Palestine which is part of the relocation plan of the Jews from the four corners of the world and the settlement on the occupied lands promotes a large-scale and threatening plot which more than ever before necessitates the wakefulness and immediate action of the Muslim world...."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry communique said the Muslims and the freedom-loving forces of the region should "stand against the transgressive policies of the Zionist regime and its patrons" and voiced Iran's unconditional support for the aspirations and the struggle of the Palestinians "against the Zionist enemy."

Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama Begins Visit

Arrives in Tehran 27 May

NC2705071491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation. He was was welcomed at the airport by Mr. Besharati, the deputy foreign minister. Foreign Minister Nakayama spoke to our correspondent at the airport and said: Tokyo is interested in expanding the level of ties between the two countries as much as possible in the political and economic fields.

He added: We consider Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis positive, and we believe that a balance of power should be created in the Persian Gulf region to ensure

security. Mr. Nakayama said learning about the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on regional issues is one of the other objectives of his visit.

Holds Discussion With Velayati

LD2705183791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama discussed mutual ties and important regional and international issues in his first round of talks with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon.

The Japanese foreign minister declared his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in various fields. He said: Japan is prepared to seriously cooperate with Iran in implementing infrastructural projects, combating Persian Gulf pollution, and preserving ancient monuments. He also praised Iran for its actions concerning the Iraqi refugees.

Mr Velayati said: Regarding mutual ties based on common interests, Iran is prepared to expand its ties with Japan. We will welcome larger steps in this respect.

Referring to the crimes of the Iraqi regime against the people of that country and the destruction of holy places by that regime he said: Those buildings and holy places that have been destroyed are the common heritage of mankind. We expect you and other peace-loving countries in the world to help save the people of Iraq and preserve those holy places.

Regarding the recent statement by the UN secretary general about Afghanistan, he said: On the whole I find Mr. Perez de Cuellar's statement positive. Efforts are now needed to seek an agreement in the matter. I do not think that the declared stances are unalterable in the case of such an important issue.

Meets With Romanian Minister

OW2805094891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 28 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama pledged Japan's support Tuesday for economic reforms in Romania during a meeting here with Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, Japanese officials said.

During a 12-minute meeting at a Tehran hotel, Nakayama said he rates highly efforts in Romania for democratization and economic reform.

Nastase replied his country regards Japan as an important partner in the future and hopes to expand bilateral relations at every level.

Nakayama invited Nastase to visit Japan this summer, the officials said.

The Japanese foreign minister arrived here Monday on the first leg of his six-day tour of three Middle East countries.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

OW2805130091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 28 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday that he expects Iran to play a large role in bringing stability to the Middle East region, Japanese officials said. Nakayama, who arrived in Tehran on Monday for a three-day visit to Iran, also expressed the Japanese Government's appreciation of Iran's attitude during the Persian Gulf crisis, the officials said.

In response Rafsanjani said Iran is greatly interested in the security of the region and that he hopes long-term stability can be maintained through international cooperation.

The Japanese foreign minister told Rafsanjani that Tokyo appreciates Iran's efforts toward saving the Kurdish and Afghan refugees, and added that Tokyo is willing to continue its assistance as much as possible, the officials said.

Rafsanjani thanked Japan for its cooperation on the refugee problem and asked Tokyo to continue supporting moves to restore stability to the Gulf region. The Iranian president also said Tehran is ready to provide support to win the release of a number of Americans and Europeans held hostage by Shiite Muslims in Lebanon, the officials said.

Nakayama urged Tehran to improve its relations with the United States, which severed ties after the 1979 seizure of the U.S. Embassy, and Rafsanjani said relations would change if Washington lifts its freeze on Iranian assets in the U.S., according to the officials.

During their talks, Nakayama and Rafsanjani agreed to promote ties between Tokyo and Tehran. Rafsanjani said Iran is positive toward promoting such ties, and Nakayama said Japan would send a government mission to Iran in June to undertake studies on projects to be financed with Japanese loans.

Nakayama is the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Iran since 1987. He will leave for Egypt via Dubai in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, and will go to Tel Aviv the next day for talks with Israeli leaders. He will later fly to Paris to represent Japan at meetings of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Nakayama will also meet European Community (EC) foreign ministers in Luxembourg and attend trade and disarmament meetings in Geneva before returning to Japan on June 8.

Seeks Broader Ties With Iran

LD2905055291 Tehran IRNA in English 0518 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—The visiting Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Nakayama in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday evening expressed interest in overall broadening of Tehran-Tokyo cooperation, economic relations in particular.

Nakayama who arrived here Monday on a three-day official visit said a Japanese economic delegation will arrive in Iran in the near future for talks with Iranian officials.

On his Tuesday morning tour of the Iraqi refugee camps in western Iran, he said his personal observations differed from what he had heard before or seen on television.

Nakayama accompanied by a group of Japanese journalists toured the refugee camps in Oshnaviyeh, west Azarbaijan Province.

Lauding Iran's humanitarian measures in hosting over one million Iraqi refugees, he said he was highly impressed by Iran's generous assistance to the refugees.

Velayati said Iran continues its efforts to improve the situation of the refugees and thanked cooperation and assistance extended by foreign countries including Japan.

Both sides described Nakayama's visit to Iran as a positive step towards bringing the two countries closer and voiced readiness to promote political, economic and cultural ties with respect to common interests of the two nations.

Discusses Iranian-U.S. Ties

OW2705234891 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 27 KYODO—Japan urged Iran on Monday to improve its relations with the United States in order to help bring stability to the Persian Gulf region, Japanese officials said. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran, conveyed Washington's hope to improve ties with Iran, severed since the 1979 seizure of the U.S. Embassy.

Nakayama expressed appreciation for Iran's efforts toward rapprochement with Western Europe and Gulf countries after the Gulf crisis, the officials said. Nakayama told Velayati that an improvement of U.S.-Iran ties is necessary to promote the stability of the Gulf area and that of the world as a whole.

Velayati reiterated Tehran's argument that the U.S. should first lift its freeze on Iranian assets in the U.S. before rapprochement could come about, the officials said.

Nakayama arrived in Tehran on a three-day visit earlier in the day, becoming the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Iran since Tadashi Kuranari, who came to Tehran in 1987. During the two-hour meeting at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Nakayama also called for Iran's efforts for stable ties with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which links the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Velayati replied that Iran is making efforts to improve ties with Saudi Arabia and is inviting Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal to visit Tehran next week, the officials said. Iran will not oppose any move among GCC countries to establish friendly ties with the U.S., Velayati was quoted as saying. The Iranian foreign minister promised efforts to meet Nakayama's request to win the release of a number of Americans and Europeans held hostage by Shiite Muslims in Lebanon, the officials said.

Nakayama told Velayati that Japan will resume extending economic assistance to Iran after a 16-year suspension. He also offered 6 million dollars worth of assistance to help Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iraq and staying in Iran, they said. Nakayama said Japan will send a government mission to Iran in June to undergo studies on projects to be financed with Japanese loans.

The Japanese foreign minister proposed holding a regular consultation between Japan and Iran at the vice-minister level and promoting personnel and cultural exchanges. Velayati agreed to the Japanese proposal, the officials said.

Velayati also accepted an invitation to visit Japan, they said.

Nakayama is scheduled to visit a Kurdish refugee camp in Iran on Tuesday and leave for Egypt via Dubai of the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday. After meeting with Egyptian officials, he will go to Tel Aviv on Thursday for talks with Israeli leaders. Nakayama will later fly to Paris to represent Japan at meetings of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He will then meet European Community (EC) foreign ministers in Luxembourg and attend trade and disarmament meetings in Geneva before returning home on June 8.

Romanian Foreign Minister Conducts Official Visit

Arrives With Delegation

LD2705090491 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase heading a delegation arrived here on a two-day official visit Monday morning.

Nastase was greeted at the airport by First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Agreements on bilateral cooperations are expected to be reached between Iran and Romania during the visit.

Meets With Planning Chief

LD2705200591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] At a meeting this afternoon with Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the planning and budget organization, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, who is in Tehran, declared his country's willingness to expand economic and commercial ties between the two countries. He called for a greater variety of Iranian export goods to Romania.

The vice president and head of the planning and budget organization stressed the importance of non-barter and cash trade between Iran and Romania. He called for increased support by the two governments to help the private sector play a more active role in trade between Iran and Romania.

Received by Velayati

NC2805081391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] During a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati yesterday afternoon, visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase expressed his country's wish to broaden relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on many levels and to participate in the project to transport Iranian natural gas to Europe. The Romanian foreign minister conveyed his government's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in the UN Security Council. He also submitted his country's official request for membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO.

During the meeting, Mr. Velayati described the recent developments in Romania as positive, and he expressed his pleasure at the expanding relations between the two countries.

Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2805223291 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received foreign ministers of Romania and Japan in separate meetings here today.

Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase in his meeting handed over a message from the Romanian president, and said his country is ready to have the highest level of political, economic and cultural ties with Iran.

Nastase also called for Iran's assistance and cooperation in oil and gas industries with Romania.

President Rafsanjani expressed hope that mutual cooperation would further expand in view of the recent developments in Romania. He also received a formal invitation from his counterpart to visit Romania. [passage omitted]

Confers With Karrubi

LD2805223991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] At a meeting this morning with Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Majles, the Romanian foreign minister expressed greetings on the 11th anniversary of the inauguration of the Islamic Majles. He also said that his country is interested in strengthening and expanding bilateral relations including parliamentary cooperation and the formation of friendship groups in the parliaments of the two countries.

He referred to the responsibilities and performance of the Romanian parliament during the past year and noted the invitation extended by his country's parliamentary speaker to visit Romania officially, hoping that this trip may take place as soon as possible.

Mr. Karrubi then pointed to long-standing and traditional relations between Iran and Romania, expressed the delight of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the granting of individual, social, and religious freedoms and hoped that the government and people of Romania will achieve success along the path of freedom.

The speaker of the Islamic Majles explained that the world resembles a big family and naturally, events and developments in any one region affects all other countries. He then noted that the disturbed situation in Iraq, the illegal presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, and the transfer of Jews to occupied Palestine are cases that require appropriate reaction by the countries. In this connection he reminded that the world's silence in the face of the killing of the Iraqi people has no other meaning than to approve the deeds of the Ba'thist party. This is the case while the Iraqi refugees dare not return to their homeland for fear of the regime.

The speaker of the Majles considered that the transfer of Jews to the occupied lands and the moves to alter the population composition to the advantage of the Zionists represent a joint American-Israeli conspiracy. He called on nations and governments to react and support the rights of the people of Palestine.

Signs Memoranda, Departs

LD2905133691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] At the end of the Romanian foreign minister's visit to our country, a document containing two memoranda of understanding was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and Romanian Foreign Minister Nastase signed the memorandum of understanding at Mehrabad Airport this morning. In an interview with our correspondent, referring to the agreements reached between the two countries, Velayati said: The first memorandum of understanding includes consular agreements that involve the discontinuation of diplomatic visa restrictions between the two countries and the setting up of facilities for issuing visas for service and ordinary passports. [passage omitted]

In an interview with our correspondent, Adrian Nastase described the outcome of his trip to Iran as positive. He said: A large contract on scientific, cultural, and consular fields was signed between the two countries, outlining future relations between the two countries and creating the necessary facilities for diplomatic, commercial, and economic ties. According to this report, after signing the memoranda of understanding, the Romanian foreign minister left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by Velayati.

* Rafsanjani-al-Asad Deal on Lebanon Rumored

91AS0933B London KEYHAN in Persian 9 May 91 p 12

[Text] It is said that during his trip to Damascus Rafsanjani made a deal with Hafiz al-Asad: Hafiz al-Asad would support the Islamic Republic's participation in the region's security system, and in return the Islamic Republic would gradually disengage itself from Lebanese affairs.

Political observers say that the spread of the Lebanese army's power to Christian and Druze areas and the disarmament of militias is the prelude for this army's next move to take over the Palestinian and Shiite areas. It is said that since the Shiites and Palestinians in Lebanon are both threatened by Syria, they have made a tactical alliance to better enable them to resist the new assault of the Army of Lebanon, which is supported by Syria. The disarmament of the Shiite militias and the Hezbollah groups in Lebanon also entails the release of Western hostages in this area. England has made its improved relations with Tehran contingent upon the release of hostages held by the Hezbollah.

Baker's Statement on Iraqi Situation Viewed

NC3105093291 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 May 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The American Scheme Should Be Forestalled"]

[Text] James Baker, the American secretary of state, announced at the U.S. Congress on Wednesday that "the United States will refuse to accept Iraq in the international community as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power." Baker further added that Saddam had a lengthy record of dishonesty and ruthlessness, and that America would never consent to the lifting of the economic and political sanctions against Iraq so long as Saddam is not toppled.

The American secretary of state's statement comes at a time when the U.S. is being seriously accused by countries in the region and in Europe of having given support to the Baghdad regime against the uprisings in the north and south of the country. And some of the Iraqi opposition groups have even claimed that the U.S. provided Baghdad with secret military and political information, helping the regime to suppress the resistance in the most coldblooded and murderous fashion.

As it is, Baker's statement could only be regarded as a face-saving and propaganda ploy. It is argued that if the U.S. had really intended to remove Saddam, it could have entered into a practical process with the collaboration of the regional and European countries by focussing attention on two basic sets of measures:

1. Arranging for the trial of Saddam as a war criminal who for years has violated the most essential and recognized international laws and regulations, and is guilty not only of the murder of thousands of innocent people, but also of the destruction and desecration of holy religious premises revered even by millions of the Iraqi nation. Such a trial could be arranged along the lines of the Nuremberg trials.

2. The second set of measures would concern considerations for the establishment of a regime to succeed the Ba'thist rule in Iraq, and a democratic and free election conducted under the supervision of the United Nations would seem to be the most practical way of achieving that end.

But political observers in the region are of the opinion that basically the U.S. is not against the first part of the scheme—the trial of Saddam.

What worries the U.S., however, is the second part of the scheme and the effect free elections in Iraq may have on the nations in the region.

The leaders in the White House are most probably looking for an alternative to Saddam among his followers in the Iraqi army who would be willing to toe the Washington line, and it has even been hinted that the Saudis are working with the U.S. in identifying the most suitable candidate for the job.

In any event under the circumstances it is imperative for the European countries, including the Soviet Union, and the countries in the region to cooperate for the purpose of forestalling the American scheme.

Reportage on Commerce Minister Visit

WA2905151591

For reportage on the visit to Uruguay and Argentina by Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, including reports on his talks with leaders of those countries, see the Uruguay and Argentina section of the 29 May Latin Amercia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Karrubi Reelected as Majles Speaker

LD2905090991 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi was reinstated in his post for another year in the Majlis open session here Wednesday.

In the session, held at the 11th anniversary of formation of the Majlis, now in its third term, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi secured 193 of the total 230 votes.

Deputy from Rafsanjani, Kerman Province, Hoseyn Hashemian [name as received], was also elected as vice speaker winning 186 of votes.

Yazdi Notes Support for President at Friday Prayers

LD3105121691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] On the eve of the second anniversary of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, may God almighty be satisfied with him, masses of the admirers of the late imam were present at the pure tomb of their imam and their leader and held the glorious Friday prayers led by Ayatollah Yazdi.

During the first prayer sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary power, enumerating the qualities of God's guardians and the cause [oliya'] and likening the exceptional personality of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God almighty be satisfied with him and with the lord of the believers, His Eminence Ali, peace be upon him, considered his personality to have varied dimensions that are not found in many people in history. Elaborating the characteristics of the late imam, he said: At the same time that his eminence has supreme knowledge, he possesses a unique personality from the viewpoint of Islamic law and is a great revolutionary. Tehran's interim Friday imam said: We must appreciate this great blessing and always keep in mind his ideals and objectives.

In the second sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to the flood of extensive support for the plans of the government of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and, expressing appreciation for such support, called on all to unite and serve. The head of the judiciary power pointed out: The general policies of the government are endorsed by the leadership and that is why we declare our complete support for the government plans.

Ayatollah Yazdi referred to this week's joint session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the cabinet and described the meeting and its results as very good and useful and called for the continuation of such sessions.

Continuing the second sermon, Tehran's interim Friday imam dealt with the issue of the Islamic world, including the situation in Iraq, and condemned the massacre of the people, desecration and destruction of the holy sites, and the wastage of the cultural wealth of that country.

He also referred to the Palestinian issue and said: The people of Palestine must contnue their struggle and not be deceived by conferences and sessions.

Ayatollah Yazdi also called for the freedom of Indian Muslims in performing their religious duties and said: The enemies wish war and animosity to exist between the Muslims and the Hindus.

According to a report by our correspondent, before the Friday prayer sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslams val Moslemin Tavassoli and Abu- Torabi spoke about the characteristics of the imam's personality and the process of his eminence's struggles within and outside the country.

Pakistan

New Federal Budget Provisions Outlined

BK3005165191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Substantial relief has been provided in the new budget announced by the finance minister in the National Assembly, especially to the poor sections of society; and the taxation system has been reformed and simplified providing relief to the poor, orphans, and destitutes and reduction in the price of atta [wheat flour], dal [beans], and vanaspati ghee [edible oil].

The government is taking immediate steps for the sale of atta through utility stored at the rate of three rupees 65 paisa per kilogram. The corporation will also provide atta to retailers at the rate of three rupees 50 paisa per kilogram and will appoint dealers to sell atta at three rupees 50 paisa per kilogram. Mill owners will also be given the facility to purchase atta at three and a half rupees and to sell it to their workers at three rupees 60 paisa a kilo. This will bring the atta prices down between 25 to 80 paisa a kilo. The government is also considering a scheme under which those having an income below a certain limit will be provided atta at three rupees 25 paisa per kilo. Steps are also being taken to reduce the difference between the issue price of wheat and atta prices. Provincial food departments will issue wheat without bags and the flour mills will be entitled to provide their own bags. The export of choker [husks of wheat] is being permitted so that flour mills are able to sell atta at cheaper rates. The Utility Stores Corporation

will also provide gram pulses at six rupees a kilogram instead of seven rupees. To make the vanaspati ghee cheaper, import duty on palm oil and palmolin is being reduced by 2,000 rupees a ton. This will bring down vanaspati ghee prices by two rupees a kilogram.

A tax of 1 percent is to be levied on loans provided by banks to well-to-do persons to provide funds for baitul mal [a public fund for welfare programs]. This will help meet the expenditure of about 3 billion rupees on account of relief in the prices of atta, dal, and ghee. Loans of small amounts like 50,000 rupees, unrecoverable loans, and loans provided for investment will be exempt from this tax. Baitul mal, being established under the sharia' bill approved by the Parliament, is aimed at providing welfare services to the poor, orphans, widows, and the deserving whose responsibility [words indistinct] placed on the state. A regular stipend will be provided from this fund to such persons and those above 65 years of age who have no other source of income. Sewing machines and other means of income will be provided to widows and orphan girls as Qarz-i-Hasana [loan given on compassionate grounds, free of any interest or service charges and repayable if and when the borrower is able to pay] and assistance will be provided for the marriage of helpless orphan girls. Shelters and rehabilitation centers will be provided to those helpless and too weak, and artificial limbs and other treatment provided to the crippled.

A one time tax will also be levied on big industrial and business establishments to raise initial funds for baitul mal. Establishment with the capital of 5 crore or more will be taxed 5 lakh rupees, those with the capital of 10 crore or more 10 lakh rupees, and those with a capital of 25 crore or more 20 lakh rupees.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz also promised early implementation of recommendations of the national pay committee to improve conditions of low-paid employees. He said the government would examine proposals of the committee regarding paying pensions of government employees. He assured that these will be announced before the end of next month and estimated that this will entail an expenditure of 6 billion rupees.

The finance minister also announced important reforms in the taxation structure of the country that will not only simplify the whole system and provide concessions to taxpayers, but also simplify assessment procedures and exempt deserving sectors. He announced important relief to various categories of persons, particularly low income groups. As an immediate step, the finance minister announced reduction in the maximum slab [rate] of tax on persons from 45 percent to 35 percent and on registered firms from 35 to 25 percent. At the same time, basic income tax exemption limit has been raised from 24,000 to 30,000 rupees in certain cases. The new rate of tax will be applicable to incomes generated during the next financial year. However, salaried taxpayers will get benefit of the concession from the 1st of July next. Non-profit educational institutions established between the first of July this year and the end of June 1995 will be exempt from tax. To encourage capital market, it is proposed to extend exemption on capital gains tax for another two years from the end of next month. The exemption from income tax on pensions now enjoyed by government employees is being extended to all pensioners of the non-government sector. The limit on educational and welfare donations has been increased from five to 10 percent for public companies, and from 7.5 to 10 percent for private companies. In all other cases it will be 25 percent.

To encourage the export of ceramic tiles, tax relief has been increased from 50 to 75 percent. The budget provides relief in customs tariffs on 1,321 items from 95 percent to 90 percent. The assessment system in the customs department is being reexamined and a booklet is to be published soon giving import prices of different items. It will be renewed every three months facilitating assessment of customs duty.

As a far-reaching step in the income tax sector and for the benefit of low income traders, the government is introducing a system of fixed tax for persons having fixed business establishments. Such traders will be exempt from filing a tax return, if they wish to voluntarily pay their fixed tax. This system will be applicable to shopkeepers within the limits of the municipal corporations and committees and cantonments, and its rate will be different in different areas.

Budget estimates show revenue receipts of 249.8 billion rupees as against expenditures of 258.3 billion rupees.

Mr. Sartaz Aziz announced the annual development program [ADP] for the next fiscal year amounting to 72.7 billion rupees. This marks an increase of 9.7 billion rupees over the current year ADP of 63 billion rupees.

The budget also shows a substantial increase in provincial transfer for the next fiscal year. The federal government will provide financial support to provinces to the extent of 15.8 billion rupees for their ADP's in 1991-92.

The finance minister said in view of the various difficulties of farmers, the government under the new agriculture policy will launch an agricultural productivity enhancement program worth 1 billion rupees so the majority of farmers could benefit from the technology for boosting agriculture. He said the governmment has decided that the seven marlas [one marla equals 25 square yards] and three marlas scheme would be extended to rural areas so that [word indistinct] could construct homes for themselves.

Mr. Sartaz Aziz said despite serious economic crisis, the government managed to put the economy on proper lines. He said growth in the gross domestic product increased from 4.6 percent in 1989-90 to 5.6 percent in 1990-91. He said agricultural production increased 5.1 percent as against 2.7 percent last year, and manufacturing sector continued to grow at last year's rate of 5.7 percent.

Later, the finance minister introduced the finance bill in the house.

It will now meet on Sunday [2 June] afternoon at 1500.

Army Kills 90 Indian Soldiers, Destroys Post

BK1805151591 Lahore THE NATION in English 18 May 91 p 1

[Text] Athmuqam—The Pakistan Army, while keeping up with its past glorious traditions, gave a befitting reply to the Indian Army and completely destroyed one of the most strategically important Indian post situated on the Line of Control in Bugna village of Keran Sector.

The post, which was also named after the village Bugna, was kept under fire by the Indian Army to create hazards in the smooth flow of traffic on Muzaffarabad-Kail Road in Athmuqam area. The Pakistan Army had to resort to retaliation in reaction to Indian Army's indiscriminate firing on a civilian bus at Muzaffarabad-Kail route on the second of the current month, which later continued on the civilian population for the next six days.

The commanding officer of an army unit presently deployed in the Keran Sector told PPI's [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL'S] defence correspondent here Friday that the Indian army had to suffer heavy loss of life as more than 90 soldiers were killed while several others received serious wounds during the retaliatory firing by the Pakistan Army.

The Indian post, which is clearly visible across the Neelarn River, was completely destroyed and there were no signs of life.

A top police official escaped unhurt, but one of his guards was killed in an attack by Kashmiri freedom-fighters, police said on Friday. State police chief Kanwar Rameshwar Singh's car was ambushed in Pampore Township outside Srinagar. Singh escaped but one of his guards was killed while two other guards were injured police said.

Nine Indian paramilitary troops were kidnapped in Sakur town of the held Kashmir on Friday, reports PTV [Pakistan Television].

Editorial Assails U.S. Position on Israel, UN

BK2605063091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 May 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Viceroy Delivers an Old Sermon"]

[Text] The United States ambassador, 'Viceroy' Oakley, has been a model of condescension in his address to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry [LCCI]. He has dwelt at length on what's wrong with Pakistan, where and why. To be fair to him, much of what he says does make a notable deal of commonsense. And we must be bold enough to admit that there is a great deal that is wrong, some of it rotten, abour our economy; health services, civil administration, distribution of wealth, treatment of the weaker and deprived—and kidnapped—in the society, and what not above all, our foreign policy has been riddled with contradictions, self-deceit and not infrequently downright sold to foreign interests at a stupendous cost to our own. All that is true and far too obviously true to need the boundless wisdom of Mr Oakley to take the trouble of delivering a patronising sermon about. It was about time US diplomats in Pakistan learned that the people of this country have long since lost the taste to lap up whatever they lavished upon us, even visibly good advice. This may be an unreasonable attitude but it happens to be very, very natural for one so repeatedly and so coarsely betrayed.

The US envoy was rather blandly frank about his government making an exception for the Zionist Israel in respect of its world policy on nuclear proliferation. What Mr Oakley and his government call "exemption" is in fact blatant discrimination. It makes utter nonsense of whatever shred of sense there might be in the US policy on this very profoundly sensitive issue. One so-called exemption, which is plainly tantamount to audacious discrimination, turns the supposed morality of that policy into revolting injustice. Why should Israel be treated with reverence where all others are treated as unpardonable outlaws? Why? How can those committing this patently culpable moral offence claim to be talking at the world from moral high ground?

Mr Oakley also took the LCCI's platform to expatiate on the role of the United Nations and how well it performed during the Gulf crisis. The record must be put straight lest anyone should be misled into believing what is not true. The fact of the matter is that the United Nations was callously compromised. Its resolutions were disregarded. The military action, however morally tolerable, was in calculated disobedience of the UN Charter, since the UN Military Committee was totally ignored. The UN Secretary-General is on record having disowned the military action as having little to do with the UN. It would not be out of place to recall that the United States—notably during the eight Reagan years—defaulted on its obligations to the world body. Most probably, the US is still in arrears on its payment of dues to the UN. And who can forget the memorable Reagan declaration that he would not mind watching the UN sink beyond the New York sunset? To date, the US record in respect of the UN is extremely uneven. It has been good to the UN when the UN has played the game as its hireling and hostage and stone-hard when the UN has tried to be what it was meant to be under its charter.

In short, if anybody is entitled to lecture Pakistan on any subject it has to be said with some regret, it is no longer the United States envoy in Islamabad.

U.S. Computer Ban on PRC Viewed as Message

BK3005151991 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 30 May 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Ominous Signal"]

[Text] Washington's decision to cut off export of high-speed computers to China, despite having opted for unconditionally renewing its Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status, is a good illustration to comprehend the pattern of US policy-making. President Bush, overriding congressional hesitation to renew MFN status for China, has insisted that "it is wrong to isolate China if we hope to influence China." And he is willing to cultivate contacts that can help create a climate for democratic change, rather than browbeating Beijing for "violation of human rights." Notwithstanding self-professed championing of democracy and human rights as a cardinal principle of foreign policy, Washington has thus deemed it politically expedient to maintain normal trade relations with China and justify it as a moral course of action. But export of computers to China has been stopped because Beijing was said to have sold missile technology to Pakistan and other developing countries. While it is abundantly clear that morality in a superpower's scheme of things has a place only to the extent it suits its strategic interests, it should be of vital interest to a country like Pakistan as to why the Americans have become so allergic to the sale of missile technology to developing countries.

Had it been a genuine concern for the proliferation of potential carriers of mass destruction weapons, the US would not have turned a blind eye to India's formidable indigenous missile programme. In case, it is not the sale of missiles that worries Washington but as to who happens to buy them, it is a clear signal for Pakistan that it, among some other nations, has been classified as a kind of "trigger-happy desperado" who ought not to posses any dangerous weapons. The Americans are known to have raised from time to time different bogies and Islamic fundamentalism is the latest, being projected as a threat to "our way of life." The way the Americans have been trying to pressurise Pakistan into abandoning its nuclear programme, while encouraging India to grow into a regional military power, has more to it than the mere desire to keep the nuclear club as exclusive as it has been. Pakistan is perhaps now being perceived in Washington as a potential Islamic fundamentalist which ought to be cut down to size before it acquires enough room to maneuver. In the aftermath of the Pressler Amendment being turned into a selective sanction, the alibi for stopping the export of computers to China is a signal that ought to be taken seriously by the foreign policy planners of Pakistan.